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OPINION METER

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INSIDE



Growing Furor

The furor over Arizona's new law cracking down on illegal immigrants is growing.

NATION...Page 16



Pacman Campaign

Manny Pacquiao, the world welter-weight boxing champ, seeks a seat in the Philippine Congress.

ASIA...Page 17



Domestic Spat

Tito Ortiz is arrested on suspicion of beating up his longtime partner, Jenna Jameson.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

DHS to issue investor rules in July; no mention of workers regs

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced Mon-

day that the final regulations on the CNMI transitional nonimmigrant investor classification will be released in July 2010.

But DHS, in its semiannual

regulatory agenda published in the April 26 Federal Register, did not include a timetable for the release of the Commonwealth-only transitional worker

and foreign student program regulations.

"This regulatory agenda is a semiannual summary of all current and projected rulemakings,

existing regulations, and completed actions of the Department of Homeland Security and its components. This agenda

See DHS on Page 4

Slight hitch in release of DOI report

Today's briefings postponed, but worker groups upbeat

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Some federal agencies are taking longer than originally expected to sign off on the U.S. Department of the Interior's report to the U.S. Congress on the status of alien workers in the CNMI even as the May 10, 2010 deadline draws near.



Babauta

'So far, there's no concrete information about the content of the report but we feel it's favorable to alien workers. All we could do is pray and wait.'

—Ronnie Doca,

board chairman of the United Workers Movement-NMI

Because of this hiccup in the clearance process, Assistant Interior Secretary for Insular Affairs Tony Babauta and the Federal Labor Ombudsman's Office won't be able to conduct briefings today on the Interior report and recommendations to

the U.S. Congress.

The office of Federal Labor Ombudsman Pamela Brown said yesterday that the briefing on the report originally set for 10:30am today has been postponed until further notice.

See SLIGHT on Page 4

Office of the Public Auditor said yesterday.

Public Auditor Michael Pai said the remaining 195 individuals have yet to file their state-

ment of financial interest.

Some lawmakers are among those who have yet to file their financial reports with OPA as of

See ONLY on Page 4

Customs inspector, one other arrested for trafficking 'ice'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A CNMI Customs inspector tagged as an alleged supplier of methamphetamine or "ice" on Saipan and another man were arrested by members of the Drug Enforcement Task Force in San Antonio Monday afternoon.

Customs inspector Joesey Maratita and Peter A. Sablan were served with arrest warrants for trafficking of a controlled substance and illegal possession of a controlled substance.

See CUSTOMS on Page 4

Only half of 384 govt officials file financial reports

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Only almost half or 189 of the 384 government officials re-

quired to file their statement of financial interest for calendar year 2009 have done so as of April 26, barely a few days before the May 1 deadline set by law, the

Office of the Public Auditor said

yesterday.

Public Auditor Michael Pai said the remaining 195 individuals have yet to file their state-



Ex-DPW official gets 2-day prison term in theft case. PAGE 3
Over half of high school seniors to pursue college. PAGE 5

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Tighter rules sought to curb underage drinking

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The CNMI Juvenile Justice Task Force wants the Alcohol Beverage Control Act amended to include more stringent regulations and tougher penalties for violators as a means of curbing underage drinking in the Commonwealth.

Juvenile Justice Task Force chair Thomas J. Camacho said that tightening the law against

underage drinking is critical to the prosperity of the CNMI.

In expressing support for House Bill 17-17, which amends the ABC Act, Camacho said it is imperative to address the licensing, fines, and penalties provisions as it will assist in enforcing guidelines for businesses that sell and distribute alcoholic beverages.

The ABC Act was first established in 1962.

Camacho said there have been no major changes to the law since then and it is evident that, as times change and social dynamics evolve, so must the measures put in place to deal with them.

He said licensing fees, fines and penalties must be increased in order to keep businesses accountable in enforcing underage drinking laws and to meet the demands of today's market.

The alcohol license fee in the CNMI for a nightclub or retail store is \$30 annually. In Guam, the license fee for nightclubs is \$500 while for retail stores, it's \$150.

Camacho said the CNMI must make alcohol licenses more valuable to the businesses so that they

Resolutions honor Manta Ray Band, Mount Carmel School

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Two resolutions were introduced yesterday in the House of Representatives, recognizing and honoring the achievements of Saipan Southern High School and Mount Carmel School.

Rep. George N. Camacho sponsored House Resolution 17-10, which commends and congratulates the Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Band for their outstanding performance at the New York International Music Festival last week.

The Manta Ray Band bagged the silver award in the competition that saw the participation of five other school bands around the United States.

Camacho's resolution stated that the Commonwealth is immensely proud of the accomplishments of the 40-member band. It specifically lauded the guidance of the band's musical director, Will DeWitt, who started the program.

The Manta Ray Band is the only high school musical program in the Commonwealth. The group had already performed in international events such as at the Sydney Opera House in Australia, the Tumon Bay International Music Festival in Guam, and at the opening ceremonies of the Beijing Summer Olympics in 2008.

Camacho's resolution lauded the band's determination in doing all it could to raise the \$140,000

are more likely to comply with the law to keep them.

He also described the existing ABC Act as antiquated and that it does not meet today's business demands.

"The marketing demand 48 years ago is incomparable with today's marketing requirement. Businesses have expanded over the years and the growth involving the sales and distribution of alcohols has impacted the CNMI community both economically and socially," Camacho said.

He pointed out that the corporate social responsibility with respect to consumer demands for alcoholic beverages have transitioned over the years, thus creating the need to address the current "old" laws in order to improve the mandates of enforcing the sales and distribution of these highly regulated commodities.

He added that the sales, distribution and consumer demands of alcoholic beverages continue to impact the CNMI community in terms of economic status, safety, health, and well-being of the youth.

needed so it could participate in the Carnegie Hall event.

"Saipan Southern High School has become a model school with respect to their music department, with other schools seeking input on ways toward improving or reforming their own music and band programs," the resolution stated.

The group wowed the New York crowd with their exceptional performance of three intricate pieces of music: Rush by Samuel Hazo, Elegy by John Barnes Chance, and Old One Hundredth by Louis Bourgeois.

Meantime, Rep. Diego T. Benavente, along with seven other lawmakers, introduced House Resolution 17-9, which commends the Mount Carmel School High School mock trial team for their victory in the regional event last Feb. 27.

The group will represent the CNMI in the national mock trial contest, facing off with participants from all U.S. states and territories.

The mock trial program offers an exciting law-related educational program that introduces students to the American legal system and provides a challenging opportunity for personal growth and achievement.

Benavente's resolution stated that through their victory, MCS students will serve as ambassadors for the CNMI at the national event in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, next month.

Ex-DPW official gets 2-day prison term in theft case

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo imposed yesterday a two-day prison term on a former official of the Department of Public Works accused of stealing DPW's bulldozer and gallons of diesel fuel.

In a plea bargain signed with counsel Edward Arriola Sr., Antonio Sablan Demapan, 53, pleaded guilty to two counts of removal of government property.

Govendo accepted the guilty plea and the plea agreement and sentenced Demapan to six months in jail, all suspended except for two days, for two counts of removal of government property charges.

The judge gave Demapan credit for the two days he had already spent in the slammer, which means Demapan will immediately go free.

He was, however, placed on one year of supervised release and ordered to pay a \$100 fine, court costs, and probation fees.

Demapan agreed to be banned from government re-employment within 10 years. The judge told him that the 10-year ban is a very serious condition, especially in these tough times when

government employment is very important.

Demapan apologized for what he did and said he gave the bulldozer to a person who wanted parts of the equipment. He said he also gave diesel fuel to that person.

The bulldozer has already been turned over to DPW, but the fuel has yet to be returned.

According to the charges, Demapan unlawfully removed the bulldozer from DPW's custody on Feb. 26, 2008. On March 4, 2008, he also unlawfully removed from DPW's custody 352.6 gallons of diesel fuel.

Demapan was charged with two counts of conspiracy, two counts of theft by unlawful taking or disposition, and two counts of removal of government property. By now pleading guilty to the two counts of removal of government property, the remaining charges were dismissed.

The other defendant, businessman John Tenorio Sablan, was charged with two counts of possession of government property. His bench trial is currently scheduled for May 17, 2010.

Investigators at the Attorney General's Office arrested Demapan and Sablan in May 2008 over the reported illegal transfer to

Sablan's company \$1,185 worth of diesel fuel and a \$58,000 bulldozer that belonged to DPW.

Demapan was the then acting director of DPW's Transportation Automotive Heavy Equipment Division.

A government investigator said 352.6 gallons of diesel fuel were "donated" to Sablan's JG Sablan Company in Lower Base. The fuel was said to be donated by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to DPW's TAHED to be used for DPW equipment only.

A bulldozer, owned by the government and in the custody of DPW, was allegedly transferred to Sablan without following proper procedures and without any documentation or necessary approvals.

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NMI Judiciary schedules 'Law Week' celebration

The CNMI Judiciary will celebrate Law Week 2010 Thursday, April 29, with a proclamation signing and recognition award ceremony at 11am in the Supreme Court courtroom at the Guma Hustisia in Susupe. Recognition awards will also be presented to the winners and outstanding participants in the recent mock trial competitions and the Covenant Day debates.



Demapan

Islands to acknowledge the importance of the legal and judicial systems with appropriate ceremonies and activities, and to display the flag of the United States and of the Commonwealth in support of this observance.

During the week judges and justices, law clerks, and members of the Bar will be visiting community schools speaking to students. At 8am on Friday, April 30, the Attorney General's Cup speakers' tournament will be held in the Supreme Court courtroom. The public is invited to attend the revival of this CNMI-wide competition. (PR)

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New austerity bill withdrawn; CUC rate hike opposed

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) withdrew his austerity bill seeking to cut government work hours from 80 to 70 hours per pay period until he gets concrete figures on the number of employees that will be affected by the Fitial administration's reduction in force plan.

Dockter to become clerk of the NMI Supreme Court



Dockter

The CNMI Supreme Court announced yesterday that Jennifer Dockter, who recently stepped down as traffic prosecutor for the Office of the Attorney General, will join the judiciary as the clerk of the Supreme Court when Daniel Stafford, the current clerk of court, departs the judiciary on May 8 to assume a position in the private sector.

In her role as the clerk of court, Dockter will also serve as the staff attorney for the judicial branch, which will require her to review all personnel and

third-party vendor contracts and to represent the judicial branch in various other matters. The office of the clerk is also the depository for all new documents filed with the Supreme Court.

Dockter is a member of the bar associations of the CNMI and the State of California and

came to the CNMI in 2008 as a law clerk for Judge David Wiseman. She has a bachelor's degree in international business from Boise State University, where she graduated cum laude, and a law degree from Thomas Jefferson School of Law in San Diego, California, where she graduated third in a class of 177 people.

In commenting on his departure from the Supreme Court, Stafford said "it was a very difficult decision. I immensely enjoyed my time in the judiciary and will greatly miss working

the bill," he said.

House Ways and Means Committee chair Ramon "Ray" Basa (Cov-Saipan) introduced two austerity bills; the first one's committee report was filed. The second one, H.B. 17-45, HD6, passed the House but a Senate version of the bill removed the work hour cuts and replaced them with tax and fee hikes.

The House didn't tackle Basa's

with my colleagues and the justices on a regular basis."

Stafford will be working with Dockter in the coming weeks to ensure a smooth transition.

According to Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan, "while Daniel will be difficult to replace, we are excited to add another highly qualified attorney to our staff. By all accounts, she was an excellent member of the judicial branch while clerking for Judge Wiseman, and I have no doubt she will serve the Commonwealth well in her new role." (PR)

bill yesterday, although House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) earlier said he wanted to refer the bill to Basa's committee, instead of having it killed.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the executive branch is in the process of compiling the same information that Torres is referring to.

"The administration continues to analyze the situation and the aspects of a potential reduction in force process," Demapan said.

Contract or excepted service employees in the executive branch will receive a 10-hour work cut per pay period by mid-May, while civil service employees will be subjected to reduction in force as early as June 1.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan, Public School System federal programs officer Tim Thornburg and Parents-Teachers-Students Association Council president Juan M. Sablan separately asked House members during yesterday's session to exempt PSS and Northern Marianas College from any austerity bill.

'No to CUC rate hikes'
Rep. Francisco S. Dela Cruz (R-

Saipan), meanwhile, called on his colleagues to sign off on a resolution he is drafting, opposing the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s proposal to increase water and wastewater rates on a staggered basis starting in May.

Dela Cruz wrote a letter to the regulatory agency, Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, expressing his opposition to CUC's rate hike proposal.

"Fairness is compromised when you have a group of customers who are paying their fair share of their water usage versus those who pay a flat rate who can at times abuse the system because to them, there really is nothing to lose," Dela Cruz said in an April 16 letter to CPUC.

During the session, Dela Cruz said it is also unfair to charge CUC customers when their water meters are inspected by CUC, even though the fault is with CUC.

He also took issue with CUC's move to limit to \$300 the credit card charge among customers.

"If the invoice is \$1,000 and the customers can pay it with their credit card, why not allow it? Why limit it to \$300?" he told his colleagues.

SLIGHT

From Page 1

As of last yesterday afternoon, there's also no final word whether Babauta will arrive today as originally scheduled.

"No one has cancelled the trip but it's highly unlikely that the assistant secretary will be here based on our understanding of the process that allows official documents to be cleared by federal agencies for transmittal," OIA field representative Jeff Schorr told *Saipan Tribune* when asked yesterday about Ba-

bauta's arrival.

He said Babauta's primary reason for coming here is for a briefing on the Interior report to Congress.

But because the federal agencies that are supposed to sign off on the report are taking longer than expected to weigh in on the report, Babauta may decide to also hold off on his Saipan visit at this time.

Once federal agencies, including the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, clear the report for transmittal, the U.S. Office of Management and Budget also has to give its approval.

But Babauta, in his visit to Saipan in March, said Interior will meet the May 10, 2010, deadline set by law to report to the U.S. Congress.

U.S. Public Law 110-229 or the federalization law requires the Interior secretary, in consultation with the Homeland Security secretary and the CNMI governor, to make recommendations to the U.S. Congress on what to do with the guest workers in the CNMI, by May 10 this year.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said as of yesterday, they have yet to be notified of Ba-

bauta's arrival. They have also yet to receive a draft copy of the Interior report to Congress.

"We have not seen a draft or final report. Once we receive such communication, we will comment further," Demapan said.

Despite the postponement of the briefing, worker groups are upbeat on the recommendations they said are "favorable" to the nonresident worker population.

"So far, there's no concrete information about the content of the report but we feel it's favorable to alien workers. Right now all we could do is pray and wait," said Ronnie Doca, board

chairman of the United Workers Movement-NMI.

Rabby Syed, president of UWM-NMI, separately reiterated their call for "improved immigration status for all," including those who have been in the CNMI for less than five years. He said they're also asking for pathway to U.S. citizenship to long-term alien workers in the CNMI.

"I am also asking the federal government to give green cards to parents of U.S. citizen children," he added.

Syed said the group will be presenting Babauta with a let-

ter stating their request for improved immigration status for nonresidents.

The Federal Labor Ombudsman's Office made an accounting of some 20,000 nonresident workers and those with immediate relative status in December. The accounting of these individuals is part of the Interior report to Congress.

In December, Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said in a news briefing that the Fitial administration won't oppose the federal government if it decides to grant "green cards" to nonresident workers in the CNMI.

the CNMI.

DHS has since exercised its authority to grant parole and advance parole for non-U.S. citizens in the CNMI to allow them to work or stay in the Commonwealth pending the issuance of the final regulations.

DHS

From Page 1

provides the public with information about DHS' regulatory activity," DHS said.

DHS is proposing to amend

its regulations by creating a new E2 CNMI investor classification for the duration of the transition period for the application of the Immigration and Nationality Act to the CNMI.

"These temporary provisions are necessary to reduce the po-

tential harm to the CNMI economy before these foreign workers and investors are required to convert into U.S. immigrant or nonimmigrant visa classifications," DHS said.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday that the

Fitial administration has been waiting for the release of the regulations.

Other public and private entities, including the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, have also been waiting for the release of the investor and worker regu-

lations, two years after the Public Law 110-229 or the federalization law was signed and five months after the federal government took over CNMI immigration on Nov. 28, 2009.

Last year, DHS said it estimates 500 foreign investors in

total of 384 individuals required to file a statement of financial interest.

"OPA strongly urges all persons required to file a statement to please do so before the May 1st deadline to avoid any penalty fees. For this purpose, free notary service is provided at OPA," Pai added.

Pursuant to the Government

Ethics Code Act, the CNMI Department of Finance certified a

total of 384 individuals required to file a statement of financial interest for calendar year 2009.

"Of the 384 certified individuals, 189 have filed their statement with our office as of (April 26, 2010)," Pai said.

In addition, OPA will be sending staff to Rota on April 29 and to Tinian on April 30 to notarize and receive statements of financial interests.

ONLY

From Page 1

yesterday.

Others like Rep. Francisco S. Dela Cruz (R-Saipan) filed theirs much earlier than their colleagues. Dela Cruz said he filed his statement of financial interest with OPA in March.

The statement of financial

interest includes government officials' income, and financial interests in real estate, among other things.

But unlike many other jurisdictions, CNMI law does not make public financial statements. Thus, the assets and liabilities of elected officials are not readily available for public inspection. OPA can only release the documents with con-

sent from the filer.

The initial deadline to file is

May 1, 2010. If a certified in-

dividual files after the initial

deadline, his or her statement of

financial interest will be consid-

ered filed late without penalty.

But failure to file a properly

completed and verified state-

ment by May 31 is subject to a

civil penalty of not more than

\$10 per day for periods of de-

linquency.

"Please note that the Office of the Public Auditor has no au-
thority to make any exceptions to the filing requirements of the Act," Pai told *Saipan Tribune*.

Under 1 CMC §8511 of the Government Ethics Code Act, all elected and appointed Commonwealth officials, judicial officers, and executive department heads or directors

are required to file a statement of financial interest.

"OPA strongly urges all persons required to file a statement to please do so before the May 1st deadline to avoid any penalty fees. For this purpose, free notary service is provided at OPA," Pai added.

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CUSTOMS

From Page 1

Maratita and Sablan, both 33, were taken to the Superior Court for a bail hearing yesterday morning.

Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo granted the government's recommendation that the bail be kept at \$30,000 cash for each defendant.

Govendo set the preliminary hearing for May 5, 2010,

at 9am.

The judge tapped the Public Defender's Office to represent Maratita and appointed a private counsel for Sablan.

Using a "cooperating source," detectives said they were able to buy from Maratita and Sablan \$70 worth of "ice" in two separate operations on April 21.

Detective Sean White stated in his report that last week, the cooperating source disclosed to him and Sgt. Paul Ogumoro of the Department of Public

Safety's Criminal Investigation Bureau that Maratita has been selling "ice."

White said the cooperating source told them that Maratita had offered him "ice" on sev-

eral occasions.

Maratita apparently told the cooperating source that should he want to purchase "ice" he can personally check him at his residence in San Antonio or find him at his work at the Customs Service.

Drug Enforcement Task Force Detective Francine Nekai stated in her report that on Wednesday, April 21, the DETF set up a controlled buy operation in which

the confidential source was to purchase \$50 worth of "ice" from Maratita at his residence in San Antonio.

During the operation, Nekai said, Maratita took the \$50 from the cooperating source and walked into the residence of Sablan.

When Maratita exited the residence of Sablan, he informed the confidential source that he only got \$20 worth of "ice" and handed the \$30 change.

Nekai said Maratita told the confidential source to come back later so he could give him more "ice."

Later that day, DETF officers again set up another controlled buy operation utilizing the same confidential source to purchase \$50 worth of "ice" from Maratita.

The confidential source, the detective said, met with Maratita to buy "ice" and then Sablan came and gave the \$50 worth of "ice" to the source.



Sablan



Maratita

Over half of seniors to pursue college

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

More than half of graduating high school seniors in CNMI want to pursue college after graduation, while 30 percent want to enlist in the U.S. military, according to a Public School System survey.

Records submitted to the Board of Education during its meeting last week also showed that 15 percent of seniors are either undecided or will immediately join the local workforce after graduating in June.

PSS expects over 630 seniors to complete all high school requirements this school year.

The islands' biggest public high school, Marianas High School, expects all its 260 seniors to pass.

MHS conducts its own seniors' exit poll every year and results usually indicate an unbroken trend, with majority of seniors expecting to go on to college after graduation.

MHS principal Karen Borja said yesterday that, although

they have yet to complete their survey this year, she is optimistic that this trend will hold.

"We're expecting a similar result where we always get a high number of seniors who want to go to college. Last year, 48 percent of them expressed that direction; 23 percent said they want the military; and 26 percent opted to work after graduation," Borja told *Saipan Tribune*.

Saipan Southern High School principal Craig Garrison is also confident that a good number of students want to continue their education after high school.

SSHS has a total of 116 seniors this year, an increase over the previous year's.

Garrison said their school records usually show 70 percent of seniors enrolling in college either here or abroad, while 29 percent join the military.

He said about 1 percent of seniors enter the workforce or are still undecided about their plans after graduation.

In Kagman High School, school registrar Bernie Ba-

bauta said they expect all 186 seniors to complete the high school requirements. This year is a significant increase from last school year's graduates of 86 students.

Saipan Tribune learned that it was only in school year 2008-2009 when KHS noted a high number of students wanting to go to college.

In prior years, Babauta said, going to the military or entering the workforce always topped the list.

Last year was the first time that the school recorded the highest number of students wanting to pursue college (86 seniors). Some 19 students joined the military; 15 entered the workforce; and 20 were undecided about their plans after high school.

Babauta said KHS graduated 140 seniors last school year.

Although the school has yet to conduct its own exit survey, Babauta is optimistic that they will get a high percentage of students wanting to go on to college this year.

though, Ray admitted breaking into the truck through the driver's side that was unlocked.

Decena said Ray confessed he opened the glove compartment to look for money, but security guards came and stopped him. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Alert Hyatt guards help cop arrest suspected burglar

Alert security guards helped a police officer arrest a man they allegedly caught burglarizing a pickup truck at the Hyatt Regency Hotel's parking lot in Garapan early Monday morning.

Junior M. Ray, 28, was arrested for burglary. He was brought to the Superior Court yesterday morning for bail hearing.

The court imposed a \$5,000 cash bail for Ray's temporary release and set the preliminary hearing for May 5, 2010 at 9am.

Detective Jonathan Decena stated in his report that Police Officer Jay Cabrera responded to Hyatt after the hotel called the 911 emergency hotline about a burglary in the parking lot.

Security guards Jonathan Aguon and Fidel Selepeo met Cabrera at the parking lot and told him that an unidentified man was seen inside a hotel employee's pickup truck.

The guards told the officer that the suspect was seen on the surveillance camera entering the pickup truck registered to Ikejiri Tsuyoshi.

The guards said they saw the suspect searching through the vehicle's glove compartment.

When Cabrera asked the man, later identified as Ray, what he was doing inside the truck, the suspect claimed that the vehicle belongs to his friend Jun.

During a later interview,

2 convenient locations to better serve you!



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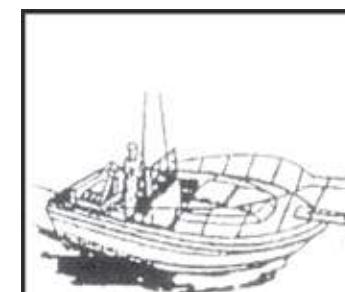
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***** SAIPAN, CNMI - STARTS: MONDAY - MAY 3, 2010**

Location: North Marianas College, Saipan

***** TUMON, GUAM - STARTS: MONDAY - MAY 3, 2010**

Location: Holiday Resort - Tumon, Guam

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**** GUAM: Local Contact numbers are :

Captain Jerry Barcenas (671) 797-5365 or Captain Neri Blas (671) 727-3325

**** or call direct (Florida): Adams Marine Seminars: toll free # (877) 447-1950

(Deposits for Guam can be made in person at Guam Tropical Dive Station: Marine Drive, Across from Ace Hardware)



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Siemer: Just like in the US mainland, no one is leaving

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI's problem now with the transition to full federalization is that no one—not even those who are jobless—is leaving the islands anytime soon, according to Department of Labor's special counsel Deanne Siemer.

The primary problem with

this situation, Siemer said, is that the CNMI is absorbing the social, hospital, and other associated costs, for unemployed workers.

"It's just like in the mainland. No one leaves," said Siemer during yesterday's VTC presentation to members of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce at the Northern Marianas College.

She said the CNMI used to deport 200 to 300 illegal aliens and repatriate more every year. However, the Immigration and Customs Enforcement cannot do that at the moment, she said, citing a similar problem in the mainland regarding overstaying foreigners.

She said it's already almost May 2010 and yet no single fed-

eral regulation is in the book.

Siemer also reiterated the CNMI government's position that workers who are in the Commonwealth are subject to the Commonwealth's jurisdiction and must abide by Commonwealth laws.

Siemer also discussed the controversial umbrella permits, among other issues.

On the issue of facing possible jail term for not complying with Labor laws, Siemer said she is not sure about it.

"The U.S. federal can put you in jail. We have no history at Labor of putting someone in jail," she said.

"The CNMI is not looking to disadvantage employers [and] is not looking to disadvantage employees," she added.

Saipan Chamber of Commerce executive director Kyle Calabrese told *Saipan Tribune* that the purpose of the meeting was for Siemer to explain some of the new regulations that were published in the most recent

Commonwealth Register.

"As you heard, there were a lot of questions, and good answers and I think people have a better understanding of the new regulations," Calabrese said.

Under proposed rules amending the CNMI Employment Rules and Regulations, the local government asserts control over alien workers and their employers, including imposing requirements among, and protections for, transitional workers, and revocation of umbrella permits.

OF 105 APPROVED POSITIONS UNDER SFSF

Only 58 teacher, counselor positions restored so far

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The rehiring of 58 teachers and counselors by the Public School System is only half of the 105 posts that were approved for funding under the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund. PSS is confident, however, that the figure would begin to grow by the start of the school year in September.

In a report to the Board of Education, PSS said these teacher and counselor positions were eliminated in the last three years

due to budget cuts and the addition of utility costs that were previously paid by the central government. It was in FY 2007 when PSS started paying for its own utility consumption.

PSS revealed that the restoration of 105 posts is budgeted at \$8.5 million for a two-year period, or from March 2009 through September 2011. Of this number, 37 positions are for the growing career and technical education teacher positions to help meet the demand for skilled technicians in the CNMI.

Once all posts are restored, PSS officials said it will help schools lower class sizes and improve the student-to-teacher ratio.

Public schools at present have an average teacher-to-student ratio of 1:23 (one teacher for every 23 students). However, many big schools such as junior and high schools have up to 30 students per classroom due to the teacher shortage.

Class-size reduction will enable the PSS to reduce class size at the most crowded schools and enable teachers to have more direct contact time with individual students.

"This restoration of teachers and school counselor positions should also help us to meet our student achievement goals," the PSS report to the board stated.

PSS has three student achievement goals: to have at least 80 percent of students reading at their grade level; to have students score at the 50th percentile or higher, on average, on the SAT-10 complete battery by 2010; and to have 90 percent of students scoring at proficient or above standards-based assessments by 2014.

'HQT target at end of school year'

Latest PSS data shows that 73 percent of its classroom teachers are now deemed highly qualified. PSS said this is just a few points away from its target HQT this school year.

"We project that 75 percent of our teachers will have passed the Praxis tests by the end of this school and 85 percent by the beginning of next school year," states the PSS report.

PSS also said that students taught by a teacher who is highly qualified consistently score 10 to 18 percentiles higher on SAT-10 complete battery tests than students taught by a teacher who is a novice or who has not yet achieved HQT status.

"We use this data to help guide our teacher recruitment efforts," PSS added.

The Board of Education has set three requirements for a teacher to be deemed highly qualified: a degree, Praxis tests, and valid teaching certificates.

PSS has until July 2011 to meet the No Child Left Behind mandate of having 100 percent highly qualified personnel. The same deadline is set for counselors and school administrators.

Jewelry Auction 

Seized Assets from Police Departments, IRS, U.S. Treasury & Secret Service...
...and other in violation of laws. Items bought from seized assets auctions will go up for bid with other merchandise which includes the majority of items.

Sunday, May 16, 2010

Auction: 12 Noon • Preview: 11 a.m. • Saipan World Resort

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:
Certified solitaire diamonds from 1 to 7 carats. Many diamond stud earrings. A huge selection of TANZANITE jewelry for 1 to 3 carats. Rolex watches. Large selection of topaz, aquamarine, tourmaline & opal jewelry. 51 carat diamond & ruby necklace. Swiss made gold watches. ESTATE jewelry, bracelets, bangles, earrings, necklaces, rings, etc...
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NMPASI launches essay contest

The Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. is now accepting entries for its essay-writing contest.

Essays should stick to the theme, "My Story: What good mental health means to me and three things I do for myself to feel better when I feel unhappy."

Everyone can join the essay contest. The contest will be divided into five categories: Category 1 (Grades 1-3), Category 2 (Grades 4-6), Category 3 (Grades 7-8), Category 4 (Grades 9-12), and Category 5 (adults 18 years or older).

All essays should be less than two pages in length. Entries can be submitted by fax to 235-7275, by e-mail to jeanneesq@yahoo.com, or by delivery to the NMPASI office on Middle

Road, Gualo Rai no later than 4pm on May 6.

According to NMPASI counsel Jeanne Rayphand, this is the second year that they're holding the essay contest. They hope to beat last year's number of entries, which reached about a hundred.

Winners of the essay contest will be announced during the Family Fun Fair and Awareness Day organized by the Coalition for Anti-Stigma of Mental Illness in the CNMI, with the assistance of NMPASI.

The Family Fun Fair and Awareness Day is slated on May 8 at the Kilili Pavilion, from 6:30am to noon.

For more information, contact Kaye Christian at 288-5293 or Jeanne Rayphand at 235-7273. (Saipan Tribune)

NMC to air Chamorro conference live

The Northern Marianas College will be making available a live broadcast of the Konfederasiyan Linguaheen Chamorro, or the Chamorro Language Conference, via video teleconferencing. All are welcome to attend.

The conference will take place on April 28-30, 2010, from 9am to 4pm on the island of Rota.

This event will be broadcasted live to NMC's As Terlaje, Saipan, campus in Room (NMC)

N-5 and throughout the CNMI Public School System.

This broadcast was made possible by the NMC Information Technology Department's Media Services, the CNMI PSS IT/E-Rate Program, the NMC Administration for Native Americans Distance Learning Network Project Connect in partnership with IT&E, the University of Hawaii, and the KLC Conference Planning Committee.

APRIL is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Prevent sexual violence...
Time to speak out!

Use the power of your voice. Let everyone know that sexual violence of any kind is wrong!

Sexual violence affects every woman, man, and child in the CNMI. Sexual Assault Awareness Month is a time for us to come together on behalf of victims and survivors to promote healing and justice, and to create a tomorrow free of sexual violence.

Join us this Wednesday, April 28th, 2010, 4:00pm-6:00pm, at Minachom Attdao Pavilion for Walk on Wednesday's. Visit our Sexual Assault Awareness Month Information Booth, Get a Free Health Screening, and Join our Walk to Advocate Against Sexual Violence.

Help is Available:

VICTIM HOTLINE: 234-5100

Lugat Pas (DVIC): 664-4580/83/84

For Information & Resources:

Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence: 234-3878



Prevent. educate. advocate.

A campaign sponsored by the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence and the Family Violence Task Force

This project was supported by Grant No. 2008-SW-AX-0001 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

Friday Beefed Up Buffet with the champions

PIC brings you another evening of Certified Angus Beef extravaganza, unlimited beer, wine and cocktails from the **Miller®** family plus other delicious treats down at Seaside Grill's beachfront.

5:30-8pm on April 30, 2010

Be the next lucky winner of ONE Complimentary PIC Room Night and a **MUSTANG CONVERTIBLE** (one-day use) plus other great prizes!

\$25
per person



Reservations recommended. Limited seats only.
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COMMUNITY BRIEFS
Art contest for grade school students

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is sponsoring an art contest for grade school students concerning the impacts of marine debris on coastal waters. The contest is targeted for grade school students from K-4 through 5 and 8 from the U.S. states and all its territories. All recognized public, private, and home schools are encouraged to participate. This is a great way to get the children involved in marine debris and its effect on coastal waters. (PR)

Koblerville group to host beautification project

The Koblerville Commu-

nity Coalition Neighborhood Watch Group will be performing its first Koblerville Beautification and Crime Prevention Project on Saturday, May 15, 2010, at the Koblerville runway (old airport field behind Tottotville), from 10am to 3pm. Volunteers are needed for this project. Call Rose T. Ada-Hocog at 287-0818 for more information. (PR)

John Gonzales Live show schedule

The John Gonzales Live show will be having its PSS Public Education Series today, April 28, on KSPN Channel 2, featuring Kagman High and ChaCha Oceanview Junior High schools. Guests are ChaCha Oceanview principal Vince

Dela Cruz and Kagman High principal Alfred B. Ada.

The show will be replayed on Sunday, May 2, and Monday, May 3, also on Channel 2.

Call 287-4230, text 285-META (6382), or e-mail john-gonzales@pticom.com for your questions or comments.

NMC English placement test schedule

The Northern Marianas College will be conducting English placement tests for the Summer 2010 semester on the following dates:

- May 13, 1pm - 4pm, Room A-6
- May 13, 5pm - 8pm, Room D-1
- May 18, 5pm - 8pm, Room D-1

■ July 1, 1pm - 4pm, Room D-1

Those who wish to take the test must bring a valid photo ID (driver's license, passport or school ID) and pencils.

There is a \$25 fee for the English Placement Test that must be paid in advance at the NMC Cashier (M-F, 8:30am - 4pm). No one will be allowed into the testing room without proof of payment (a receipt for either the placement test fee or the NMC application fee). Payment for the NMC application fee will cover the English placement test fee.

If you have any questions, contact James Kline at (670) 234-5498 ext. 2017 or Mona Camacho at Ext. 1242. (NMC)


**Department of Commerce
CNMI ARRA Office**
Broadband Technology Opportunity Program (BTOP) GRANT

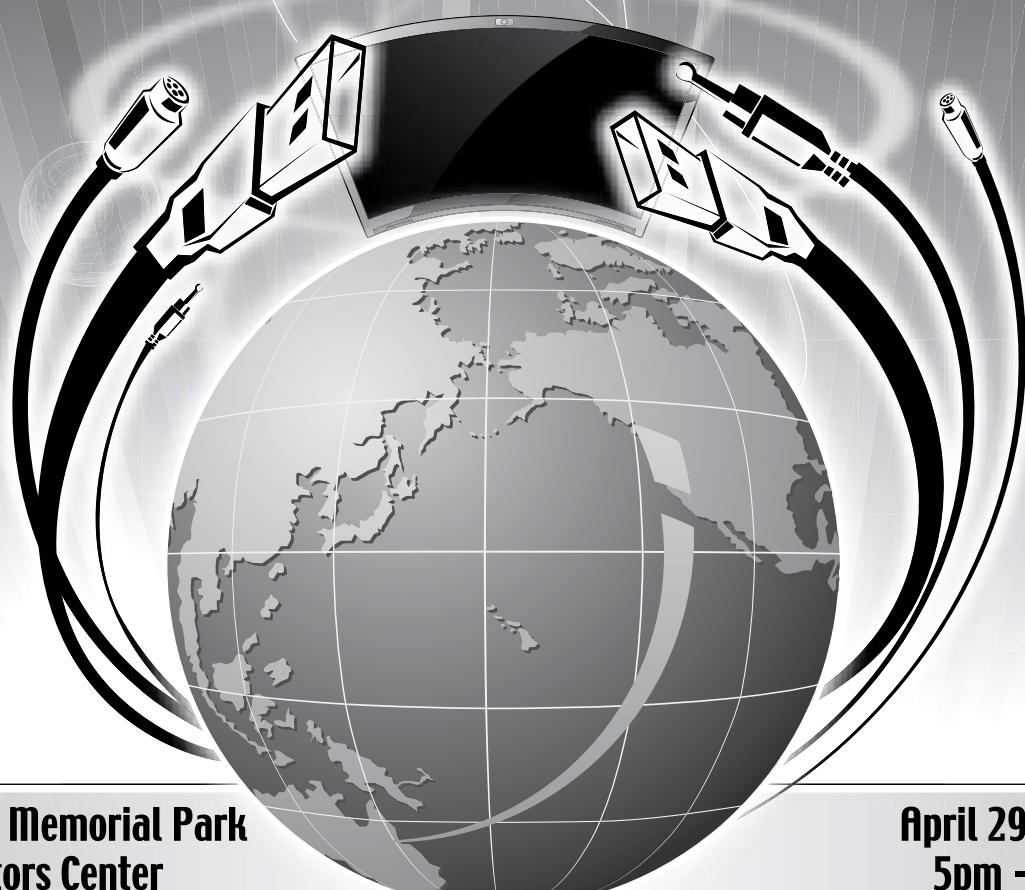
**ROUND
2**

Presentations of proposals by the following:

IT&E

Life in Motion

**PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITY
ACCESS NETWORK**



**April 29th, 2010
5pm - 7pm**

**American Memorial Park
Visitors Center**

These applicants will be evaluated by a panel of judges as to their ability to meet the needs of the CNMI...stay tuned.

We encourage everyone to attend!

All public comments need to be submitted via e-mail to btop@cnmiarra.net by Monday, May 3rd, 2010 by 11:30 am.

Any questions/concerns: please contact Alfreda Camacho at (670) 664-3010

Live video
teleconference available
on Guam (UoG/Field House),
Tinian and Rota
(NMC Campuses)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

APRIL 28, 1999

CPA eyes land lease to FTZ investors

The Commonwealth Ports Authority will earn some \$538,213 every month from the expected lease of its 20-hectare airport land to Free Trade Zone investors should it decide to charge \$.25 per square foot. However, if the CPA management decide to rent it for \$.30 per square foot, the ports authority will be able to generate an additional monthly revenue of \$645,855. This was the financial analysis made by the CPA board finance committee when it deliberated on the reasonable rental fee that will be charged to prospective investors in the soon to be established Free Trade Zone. The proposed charges are 50 percent less than the current rental rate.

MVA, DPH move to purchase decompression chamber for diving

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio will meet with Public Health Secretary Kevin Villagomez in a move to discuss the problem of acquiring a decompression chamber amid the aggressive campaign promoting the Northern Marianas as an ideal diving destination in the Pacific. As part of its promotion, the CNMI recently attempted to enter the Guinness Book of World Records by holding the most number of people entering the water for a single recreational dive. A total of 220 scuba divers from CNMI, Guam and Japan joined the event.

APRIL 28, 2000

CUC urged to cut govt power supply

Former Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio yesterday pressured the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation to cut off power from government offices for failure to pay over \$11 million in overdue utility bills. This would show that the government-owned company provides equal and fair treatment to all its customers as those behind in their payment are immediately disconnected from its power and water systems, he said. Mr. Tenorio made the comment during a CUC board meeting in which he castigated the members for not applying its tough disconnection policy towards the CNMI government.

Over 15 firms want in on Tinian airport project

More than 15 local and off-island construction companies have so far expressed intentions to undertake the improvement of the West Tinian International Airport, a project that has been snagged for years due to financial constraints. Commonwealth Ports Authority officials will be flying to Tinian Friday morning to discuss issues including project scope, deadline for the submission of proposals, construction phasing, contract duration and contract award will be discussed. CPA will be soliciting two separate invitations for the project; one will encompass the construction of a 7,800 linear-foot asphalt concrete runway and the other will be for an 8,600 linear-foot runway, according to Ports Authority Board Chair Roman S. Palacios.

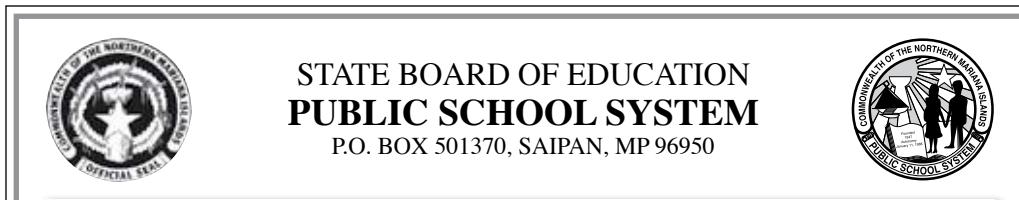
APRIL 28, 2003

What lies ahead for old dump?

Do you know that once the Marpi landfill is filled to capacity, it could then be converted into a recreational area such as a baseball or soccer field? While this possibility lies still far ahead for the 26-acre facility that lies on a 43-acre site, the Babauta administration has a more immediate plan for the old dumpsite-Puerto Rico. Felix M. Sablan, the chief-of-staff of Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente, said the administration is planning to rehabilitate the old Puerto Rico dumpsite by capping it with soil and vegetating the area. Sablan gave this reply to an inquiry of a Northern Marianas College student, Arlene Cabrera Dela Cruz, who is currently working on a research about the dumpsite and the new landfill.

Feds to review typhoon infrastructure priorities for Guam, NMI

Ten Federal agencies have agreed to explore ways to work together to help Guam and the CNMI harden their infrastructure so that they will be better able to survive the next major typhoon. At a meeting hosted by the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs, Guam Rep. Madeleine Bordallo, David Fukutomi of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and several federal officials discussed infrastructure needs in Guam and the CNMI in the aftermath of two devastating supertyphoons in a five-month period. "After watching FEMA have to replace power line poles in July and then have to replace those same poles again five months later, it makes sense to explore infrastructure hardening investments that can help people during the next storm and save the Federal government money," said David Cohen, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular Affairs.



STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370, SAIPAN, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID PSS-IFB-10-034

"PAINTING OF SINAPALO ELEMENTARY AND ROTA HIGH SCHOOL"

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting sealed bids for the Painting of Sinapalo Elementary and Rota High School on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The scope of work and project package is available beginning on April 28, 2010 at Pacific Quick Print for a fee of \$34.10.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Public School Procurement Rules and Regulations, as revised through June 5, 1998, and in accordance with ARRA Section 1605, "BUY AMERICAN REQUIREMENTS". Bidding Procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 6O-40-205 of the PSS Regulations, "Competitive Sealed Bidding".

There will be a mandatory pre-bid conference on May 17, 2010, at 10:00 a.m., local time, at the Rota High School Library on Rota. Bids will not be accepted from any bidder who failed to attend this conference. Questions may be submitted in writing to Fax No. (670) 323-1075 or emailed to Ms. Elizabeth S. Balajadia at lizb@emchen.com no later than May 19, 2010, 4:30 p.m..

All bids must be in a sealed envelope marked, IFB-10-034, and submitted with one original and five (5) copies to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than 2:00 p.m., local time, May 21, 2010 at which time the bids will be publicly opened in the PSS Conference Room, 2nd floor, NMI Retirement Fund Building. Any bids submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

This project is funded under the AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) with "Buy America" Provisions.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement Officer

CNMI-OSHA ONSITE

Consultation Program

2/F Afetna Bldg., San Antonio, Saipan, MP 96950
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Email: guerrero.ray@ dol.gov



CNMI-OSHA ONSITE CONSULTATION

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All you need to do is request this professional service from the CNMI-OSHA ON-SITE Consultation Program and is free of charge to eligible small employers in the general construction, employer provided housing and other industries. Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), in partnership with the CNMI, designed and funded this program to provide expert advice to high hazard small business that want help to establish a safe and healthful working and living condition.

No Citations are issued and No Penalties are proposed. CNMI-OSHA ON-SITE Consultation is a confidential service. What is the catch? The employer must correct all serious hazards by the agreed upon correction date.

Take the first step toward building a long-term cooperative safety and health management in your workplace. For additional information, please contact Mr. Reynaldo DeLeon Guerrero, for information and assistance.

This ad is paid for by U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

Pick it up, fill it out, turn it in.

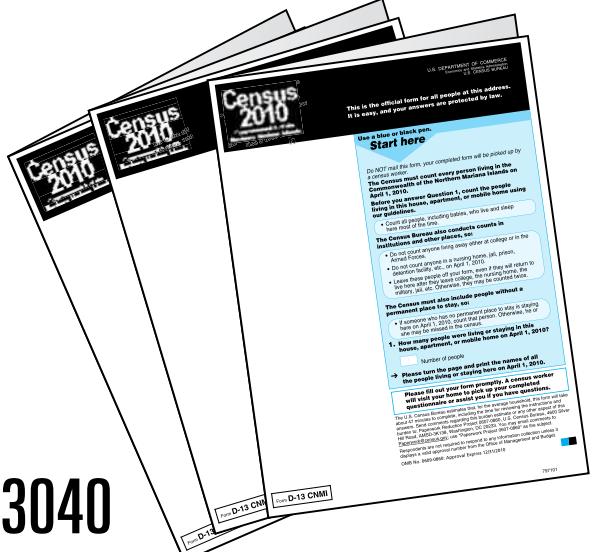


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Census
2010TM

Commonwealth of the
Northern Mariana Islands

For assistance in completing your CNMI Census form, please call 288-3040



Opinion

Saipan Tribune

CNN'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XX, Issue No. 100

Published daily at 2/F JP Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Miniskirts and major quakes

Ever since we heard an Iranian cleric explain that scantily clad and promiscuous women are the cause of earthquakes, we just can't get Carole King out of our heads: "I feel the earth move under my feet, I feel the sky tumbling down."

Of course, that's not the kind of sexual seismology Hojatoleslam Kazem Sedighi had in mind when he told worshipers in Tehran last week that women who dress immodestly corrupt young men and lead them to adultery, thereby increasing earthquakes. "What can we do to avoid being buried under the rubble?" he asked. "There is no other solution but to take refuge in religion and to adapt our lives to Islam's moral codes."

And we spent all that money on retrofitting. One problem with Sedighi's logic is that Iran, with one of the world's highest percentages of modestly dressed women, is also among the most earthquake-prone countries in the world. But wait, this isn't about logic, and Sedighi isn't alone in attributing natural horrors to human behavior. The Bible blames epic disasters on idol worship, homosexuality and what-not. The evangelical Christian Pat Robertson suggested that Hurricane Katrina was God's punishment for abortions in America, and that this year's earthquake in Haiti was part of a curse on that island stemming from an 18th century pact with the devil that Haitians allegedly made in exchange for liberty from French slave owners. Along these lines, one wonders what crimes the people of Iceland might have committed to move the earth and bring the sky "tumbling down, tumbling down."

But back to Iran. We regret that clergy are blaming women for natural disasters, as well as for the weaknesses of men so easily led astray. We believe women should have the right to cover or not to cover their heads as dictated by their faith. In this, as in all their struggles, they should move heaven and earth to get their rights.



April showers bring May flowers

Every four post-meridian hour that I happen to be in Garapan, it is either raining, or threatening to. Of course, that could only be my imagination, but the frequency of afternoon showers on that favored side of the island is no figment of imagination, even on El Niño days, and *Anshallah*, all year round!

That gentle afternoon rain, or the brief spurt of showers that hits the island anytime may have inured us from existentially confronting the reality of climate warming; the seeming abundance of sky-poured water does not infringe on the fact that most of us now drink imported bottled water, with cost of the exotic imported ones exceeding what we normally pay for gasoline.

Having dabbled in soil and water conservation measures in the watersheds of the islands in the Visayas, I was quite surprised to see when I came to Saipan more than a decade ago the Kagman watershed's attempt at water ponding/pounding by the agricultural field when it could be pounded, retained, and perhaps, even purified at a higher elevation. The culvert on the side of the road going down the hill from the back road to Kagman has no retention capacity and designed to swiftly run the water down the slope, accumulating and spilling over into the road at the bottom of the hill at the slightest downpour.

Our intent is not to criticize the structures constructed in place. We are no expert in engineering designs so we will leave that to the professionals. We do know that Western engineering tend to build on straight lines, or dam to contain a force, like the Three Gorges Dam, when the engineering of human scale tends to trickle the force down like the rice terraces of Indochina and the water canals of the Incas in the Andes. There is a shortage of water on island to dampen fields especially during dry spells, and we have not heard of any effort to rectify the obvious structural gaps even with the adequacy of water delivery from our island weather. The non-potable tap water speaks for itself.

I was at a public forum early on when I had the temerity to ask why we do not have more water catchment structures in our buildings, particularly the public schools (water tanks are in place, at least, at Hopwood, San Vicente and GTC, but are not utilized), venues for a natural demonstration of the judicious use of free water from the sky, not to mention having water supply to keep the toilets hygienic. I suppose, the "free" water that CUC provided many public structures in the past have spoiled users from ever considering the development and conservation of source, and the distribution efficiency of supply. I was also told that the organic growth of fungi has discouraged the use of roof-gathered water in homes, apartment housing, and commercial buildings. Duh!

I was told that the islands aquifers are pumped out. Worst, sea water has seeped into the water table under the island and hydrologists tell me that the process is irreversible, which makes rain catchment a sensible option for water retention. We already practice reverse osmosis, so what is the problem with decontaminating rain water?

Water wars are already a reality in many parts of the world as corporate boards have discovered that there is money to be made in gaining legal access to aquifers and hawking "pure" water to the gullible consumers. There is one practical reason why water retention

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section



tion would put this island in a competitive advantage. That has to do with flowers, fruits and vegetables.

Mr. Kim by the CK Post Office is demonstrating production efficiency with his hydroponic greenhouse in raising tomatoes. SVES' Val Welch *et al* are scientifically tutoring the young on small scale aquaculture, papaya and tomato growing. All over China, Korea and Japan—and the rest of the temperate world, the principle of green housing has been long practiced. The tropics have taken the management of sunshine and rain for granted.

Perhaps, it is time to bring intentionality to our gardens and backyards, more so because local consumption requires it. If we allow our food chain to extend all the way to California, then whatever little asset we have get encashed quickly at the Bank of America. Nor do we need to drool over the prospects of selling to the military. If we can produce more than what is locally consumed, fine; but local consumption can sustain profitable production.

More importantly, the CNMI as a tourism destination has a product that has a captive audience: flowers and scents. That we have to fly in flowers all the way from Holland and Korea speaks of a viable market in the visitors' industry. Chanel 5 that is a DFS mainstay is from a fragrance common to our island mawr-mawrs, the *ylang-ylang*. Question: why would we not start distilling scents from our flowers and *create our own signature island scent*? (Don't we have an unused distiller of ale sitting near Coffee Care up the hill?) I suspect that creating more meaningful signature signs and symbols beyond the ridiculous and irrelevant Saipanda can get us far.

A whiff of the *dama de noche* that wafts lagoon side at night when one manages to walk the pathway by the Hakubutan can use some investigating. Can the scent be bottled? Jasmine (*sampaguita* to the Pinoy) is another crop that can easily cover the leeward side of Mt. Tapochao, not to mention, fruit orchards of mangoes and citrus that are known to grow in the Commonwealth. (Pests? We cannot quarantine a 5 by 12 mile island?)

Much ink and grief have been poured over the Article XII debate, notwithstanding the fact that a lot of landed folks and homestead recipients have relocated to the U.S. northwest and west coast, negating the false argument on the umbilical cord between land and culture.

The obvious should be clear: there are no revenues if there are no productive assets. The issue is how to make our natural resources productive to sustain a local economy based on concrete values rather than speculation. That conversation can begin with April rains and May flowers.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Flipping stones

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

I know you'll think I'm crazy
or at best a tad insane
But wait, I think I've learned the trick
to winning at life's game

Seek out stones in numbers
seek them everywhere they lie
small ones, big ones, boulders too
just do it, and here's why

Stones that block and trip you
even stones that cause you pain
are really life's great teachers
though you may think them your bane

Once a stone is found and flipped
then hurled out of the way
excuses that lay hidden
are exposed to light of day

Even stones that others throw
revealing inner wrath
come with some life lessons
you can use well on your path

Make sure no stone is left unturned
for once each stone is gone
what's left to see are just the steps
of paths you should be on

Yes, each stone hides an answer
that removes a bit of doubt
And seeking stones and flipping them's
what winning's all about!

Everyone has aspirations. Everyone has goals. Everyone has dreams they would like to see realized. However, the reason some people take longer than others to meet, achieve and live those aspirations, goals and dreams is that they stroll passively through life avoiding "stones."

So what are "stones?" Just like the hard, sometimes jagged and rough rocks that exist in many shapes and sizes in nature, the "stones" in your life are the hardships, hardened beliefs, rough spots and obstacles that are often strewn about, or sometimes blocking your life's path. Stones can also be the hard opinions or rough, hurtful judgments that others throw at you that cause you pain.

Understandably, many people would rather live their lives avoiding the stones in their paths. They recognize the stones are there, but, rather than walk toward them, they take steps around them. Understand, however, that each stone you encounter in life actually hides a necessary step in your path. Furthermore, if these stones appear to be blocking your path (as they often do), then for each stone that you avoid, you miss a step you should be taking in order to move on the most direct path toward your aspirations, goals and dreams.

If you believe that we are here to grow and become, then the best (perhaps the only) way to grow quickly is to face the fears, judgments, beliefs and situations that seem to be our greatest obstacles and sources of pain. It is in dealing with such stones that we become all that we can be. It's a guarantee that the greatest advancements you will achieve in life are hiding beneath the biggest stones. Rather than address them head-on, most people merely talk about the steps that lie hidden beneath their stone. In other words, they live lives of excuses rather than execution.

Here's one very powerful example of how to flip a stone in relation to your interpersonal relationships, especially if you find that something about other people's actions and attitudes cause you discomfort.

1. Ask yourself, "What do I hate about other people? What behavior in other people causes me the most annoyance or anger?" Who are the people and actions that cause me the most distress?" For example, is it discourteous travelers? Is it inconsiderate drivers? Is it loud, disruptive partygoers?

2. Once you identify the source of your anger, then write down what it is about those people and their behavior that annoys you. Ask yourself, "Why does this behavior annoy me? What do I believe it says about these people? Why is this behavior worthy of my annoyance, mistrust or anger toward these people?"

Now, many experts will tell you that we only feel anger and annoyance toward people and behavior that reflects something about ourselves with which we are angry or annoyed! If there were nothing being reflected, we wouldn't even notice the behavior. Therefore, the flipping stone question to ask is:

3. What behavior in ME are these people reflecting? How am I behaving exactly like these people I am annoyed with? In what area of my life am I guilty of exactly the same behavior that annoys me in others?

they are tired of washed out politicians who can't keep their words. And these young voters would walk the talk to the polls this November.

At the end of the day, we would see how young voters would block another antiquated politically structured agenda that may derail what's rightfully theirs. It's your right so take it to the hilt.

Jesus (Jesse) Camacho Borja graduated from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. where he also received his law degree. He was there for seven-plus years. Returning home, he worked as a private attorney and was one of the first indigenous attorneys appointed to the NMI Supreme Court.

Juan Nekai Babauta was a resident representative in Washington for 12 years. There isn't much he could do as a non-member of the U.S. Congress other than ride on the mercy friends in both chambers to push issues relating to the NMI. That he was there brings into focus his accomplishments.

Joseph Norita Camacho is an attorney with a degree in public administration. He was a lawmaker before he returned to private practice. Both he and his wife are lawyers and own their own legal firm. He's the standard bearer of the Covenant Party who ran as Juan Pan's gubernatorial partner.

Kilili is the historic first non-voting delegate from the NMI who prevailed over a field of strong candidates last year. He is a former lawmaker and head of the Commission on Elections before he opted to run for the non-voting delegate's post. He's the incumbent and the perfect target for other candidates to devour.

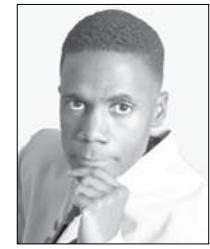
Overall, we have an excellent slate for the post in Washington. It is here where you need to listen carefully to their positions on issues of substance in order for you to make an informed decision. Equally important is whether the candidate is a person of integrity and can you confidently trust him as your representative in Washington.

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE

Special to the *Saipan Tribune*



Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

This will be the most challenging part of this particular "Flipping Stones" exercise. It is often hardest for us to see our own faults and flaws, especially those which we accuse others of having. But, look hard and honestly enough and you will find that they are there. Once you make the simple connection and realization that the source and object of the anger you are directing outward actually both exist within you, your world will change. You'll be surprised how cathartic such a simple realization can be. Once you see yourself in others, it will be easier to forgive them their trespasses, and remove this pique as a hindrance to your acceptance of and ability to extend love toward others.

That's just one example of how to flip a stone of discontent from being an obstacle to an opportunity for your own growth and development. To find similar stones to flip, seek out more obstacles. Run towards the distasteful. Embrace the fears. Analyze the limiting beliefs and judgments others throw at you. Meet the challenges. Stretch the boundaries. Do the things you never thought you could do. Seek more sources of anger, annoyance and mistrust. Remember, often the quickest way "out" is "through." Start flipping those stones!

■ ■ ■

Note: Fans and followers of the books, *Chicken Feathers and Garlic Skin: Diary of a Chinese Garment Factory Girl on Saipan* may order on Amazon.com or, on island at Fu Dogs & Qi on the first floor of the Nauru (360) Building.

Note: Ever wanted to direct your friends and family to a set of websites that revealed the best things about Saipan? Do what I do: send them to www.bestofsaipan.com!

■ ■ ■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 16 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here on Saipan. To learn more, visit www.passionprofit.com and follow Walt on Twitter (@waltonsaipan).

Non-voting delegate race

Who will be our next representative in the U.S. House of Representatives? Kilili, Jesse, Joseph or Juan? It's a bit premature to venture a clear-cut answer to this question. A lot rides on organization and voter verdict. Definitely, every aspirant is out in search of salvation in order to cross the victory goal post.

The victory of the Covenant Party in the recent runoff election isn't a given in this contest. Political solidarity has begun disintegrating and descending into atrophy. The slide appears unstoppable. Moreover, the rebuke of the CP is clearly manifested in the recent NI mayoral contest. There goes CP solidarity.

Though it has the appearance of real organization, the GOP has kinks to resolve within its very fractious group. Pundits have it that there could be shifts in support for others over its very own. But this is pure speculation "heard in the streets." But on these isles, rumors morph into truth, right?

The Democrats has a young group of leadership. These folks are equally passionate to mend differences and move forward. Its candidate has superior credentials over the rest of the field. But does it have the organization to pull this thing through? Hard work in every corner is definitely in order.

Scrambling to organize has begun escalating into the campaign mode for all camps. Strategists are pondering what's out on the political landscape. Would voters still gravitate to the CP or has this voter mood shifted drastically? Is there the dawning of renewed and powerful aspiration among young voters to do what's right in order to enhance the future of our people? Would the young voters, comprising more than 60 percent of total electorate, partake proactively in shaping their future?

Many of our young people are educated, in secondary and tertiary institutions, and are fully in tune with current issues and background of candidates. They want quality credentials and even most importantly, a candidate with real, not perceptual, integrity. Definitely,

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the *Saipan Tribune*



Delrosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section

As a group of students worked on assignments at NMC, I hear the passion of their voices with clear expressions about their dreams and visions. The collective sentiment was sufficient to shower my personal sense of satisfaction that most of them would find brighter tomorrows. That they are in school validates my point.

Never mind the controversial issues surrounding the former president for she too played a role in strengthening the institution. The culmination of all positive contributions of past presidents is in the proud stature NMC now enjoys as a tertiary institution of learning. It is here to stay and grow into a regular four-year institution a step at a time.

This is the venue that would provide opportunities for our young people to engage in the acquisition of lifetime skills. This is the institution that answers the long ignored need to educate and train our people for the challenges ahead. Politicians have said their piece but have failed royally when it comes down to answering hard queries at the firing line. The educational estate outlasts all politicians who have come and gone.

Though its syllabus is relevant (refinement still in order) it still needs a more powerful narrative that ought to gather strength and stature with time. NMC is the only institution where the dawn of dreams and the mist of success belong to those who sacrifice now for brighter tomorrows. It's the palm of your hands. Stick with it!

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 87° ▾ 77°	▲ 86° ▾ 77°	▲ 86° ▾ 76°	▲ 87° ▾ 76°	▲ 87° ▾ 77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▾ 77
Palau	Sunny	▲ 88 ▾ 77
Yap	Partly Sunny	▲ 88 ▾ 76
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 82 ▾ 76
Pohnpei	Partly Sunny	▲ 85 ▾ 78
Kosrae	Rain	▲ 88 ▾ 79
Majuro	Partly Sunny	▲ 84 ▾ 78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲ 67 ▾ 56
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲ 62 ▾ 43
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲ 77 ▾ 69
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 82 ▾ 72
London	Cloudy	▲ 71 ▾ 55
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 68 ▾ 55
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 90 ▾ 84
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 66 ▾ 60
Miami	Sunny	▲ 86 ▾ 67
New York	Showers	▲ 58 ▾ 40
Osaka	Showers	▲ 66 ▾ 54
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲ 76 ▾ 52
Pusan	Showers	▲ 57 ▾ 44
Rome	Showers	▲ 73 ▾ 52
Salem	Rain	▲ 55 ▾ 44
San Francisco	Rain	▲ 57 ▾ 51
Seoul	Showers	▲ 53 ▾ 41
Tokyo	Rain	▲ 62 ▾ 55
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲ 65 ▾ 45

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
1:14 AM	Today	Low Tide: 0.8 Feet
6:41 AM	Today	High Tide: 2.1 Feet
1:44 PM	Today	Low Tide: 0.3 Feet
8:23 PM	Today	High Tide: 2.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	5:56 AM	6:34 PM	Today	6:20 PM	5:14 AM
Thursday	5:55 AM	6:34 PM	Thursday	7:20 PM	6:02 AM
Friday	5:54 AM	6:34 PM	Friday	8:19 PM	6:53 AM
Saturday	5:54 AM	6:35 PM	Saturday	9:16 PM	7:47 AM
Sunday	5:54 AM	6:35 PM	Sunday	10:10 PM	8:42 AM

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Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

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Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

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Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

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Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).

Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.

Photos must have been taken in the last two months.

For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 7, 2010

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM				GUAM-ROTA (ROP)			
C09597 5:00am 5:30am 1, 5				C09598 6:30pm 7:00pm 4, 7			
SAIPAN-GUAM				GUAM-SAIPAN			
C09317 4:25am 5:15am Daily				C09316 2:45am 3:35am Daily			
C09313 8:30am 9:20am Daily				C09596 7:00am 7:50am Daily			
C09601 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7				C09600 10:05am 10:55am Daily			
C09603 3:05pm 3:55pm Daily				C09602 1:40pm 2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7			
C09605 6:35pm 7:25pm Daily				C09604 5:10pm 6:00pm Daily			
C09599 9:35pm 10:25pm Daily				C09606 8:10pm 9:00pm Daily			
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287 5:55am 8:35am Daily				DL290 10:00am 2:35pm Daily			
DL297 3:35pm 6:15pm Daily				DL298 10:30am 3:05pm Daily			
DL289 4:35pm 7:15pm Daily				DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily			

Why the NMI government should be the entity to guarantee any required pension bond—and not the retirees or their Fund

A few questions and issues awaiting a just and fair solution

A message to interested retirees: In this two-part series I attempt to introduce some of the basic elements of bond financing about which there has been some discussion as a possible solution to the dire situation facing the Retirement Fund. In Part 2, I raise a red flag of caution to the thousands of members of the Fund, surviving spouses and dependent children and encourage they carefully monitor the activities of the central government, the Legislature and Fund officials as efforts are made to solve the government's financial obligation to defined benefit plan members and all others who are presently retired from the NMI or expect to retire in the future. I encourage those interested to write letters to the editor expressing your thoughts and opinions on the issues introduced in this two-part article.

Conclusion

If ever asked, I would counsel DBP members to oppose any NMI government plan to guarantee bonds with member's money either paid in and now invested or owed the Fund's members by the NMI Government. Should the NMI government guarantee the bond with general revenue funds I would have no objection.

In my judgment the NMI government's legal obligation to provide the employer's contribution should not—nor should any of the other revenue sources, including the government debt to the Fund, which is now hundreds of millions in arrears and accumulating interest (albeit unpaid in full to date but nevertheless owed)—none of the above so-called "accounts receivable" owed the DBP members should ever be used to guarantee any bond. In fact it might even be illegal to do so. However, that issue is beyond my scope of knowledge. Economics is not. Nor, hopefully is common sense.

To use such funds to guarantee a loan such as a bond seems to me to amount to taking property pledged as jointly owned by a group of DBP members who have previously been both publicly and officially acknowledged as property owners of funds earmarked for use for one purpose, namely, as direct payment into the Fund—and use such funds without their permission for another, much different purpose such as to guarantee a loan, all without the expressed approval of a majority of the joint owners. Should this occur it might very well be illegal.

Think about it—to do otherwise is an attempt to shift the government's debt of hundreds of millions due Fund's members to, guess who? That's right—the DBP retirees themselves and no one else, and certainly not the central government. At least up to the amount of the many millions now owed and in arrears.

Let me provide a simple analogy to make my point.

Suppose I'm renting your house and I ask you to lend me cash to pay the rent I owe you. You would have every logical right to tell me, "Get lost" and to go to the bank and borrow the money. Why should my debt to you be "piled onto" an additional debt in the form of a loan?

I'm not aware of any mention of the prior accumulated unpaid interest owed members. Anyway, the comments that come my way revolved around the sum of a \$200 million dollar bond when the current government debt appears to be \$280 million with accumulated interest increasing daily. What happens to the remaining debt

of \$80 million plus? Will the central government cover the debt to the Fund outside the bond issue?

If this is what's being discussed—and mind you I'm not certain it is—in my judgment this would be one more creative attempt to kill the Fund by subtly maneuvering DBP members to eventually commit financial suicide. Think about that.

Don't believe my assessment. Ask any other economist or banker familiar with the NMI government's credit reputation of their opinion of my position. Contact the Fitch Bond Rating agency and pose the question as to the NMI's rating. The e-mail address is: http://www.fitchratings.com/index_fitchratings.cfm. Then go to the following site to interpret the rating scale: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bond_credit_rating

With respect to the payment of certain "aged" government debts and in consideration of the restrictions of 1CMC, section 7207, which controls which government funds may be paid creditors and even then only pursuant to an item of legislative appropriations for settlement and awards, I'm surprised that the NMI has ever been

Should the NMI government guarantee the bond with general revenue funds I would have no objection. But if ever asked I would counsel DBP members to oppose any NMI government plan to guarantee bonds with member's money either paid in and now invested or owed by the NMI government.

able to sell any NMI backed bonds. I wonder if the rating agencies are even aware of this local law and its application toward several recent local court adjudicated cases in favor of plaintiffs who as yet remain unpaid? As a buyer I would prefer U.S. Treasury inflated Protected Securities, (Google TIPS).

Look at it this way, should the central government decide to attempt to arrange for a financial institution to float (sell) bonds to raise money for the government to partially—yes, partially—pay its debt to the Retirement Fund and does so by offering its future employer contribution and other earmarked revenue already belonging to the Fund's DBP or otherwise legally assigned to them, it would be using future money it would otherwise have to contribute to the Fund and, get this, obligate members to pay the bond's interest to the holders.

Of course, the proceeds from the bond, for example, the \$200 million or whatever it might happen to be, would be invested in the stock market or some other investment instrument hopefully, earning more in interest in the market than must be paid out to the bond holders.

By WILLIAM H. STEWART

Special to the Saipan Tribune

William H. Stewart is an economist, historian and military cartographer.



Ask yourself the question, why wouldn't the people or institutions with funds to invest take their \$200 million and forget about loaning it to the NMI and instead invest in the stock market? I'll tell you why—because the NMI will be forced to guarantee payment of interest to the bond holders since there is no guarantee in the stock market. For them lending to the NMI is a sure thing while investing the market is not.

Certainly the successful sale of NMI bonds could provide \$200 million right away, which should be quickly invested, hopefully to earn a higher interest rate than that which the NMI must pay the bond holders. But there is no guarantee. The gamble then is on the "spread", that is the difference in what is paid out in interest to the purchaser of the bond and the money earned in interest from the \$200 million invested by the Retirement Fund.

Arbitrage is the term used in such transactions, always with the hope of profiting from the difference in interest paid to one entity as compared with interest earned from another different entity.

Unlike the more secure bonds the stock market doesn't guarantee an investor anything except maybe the possibility of a heart attack when stock values decline. On the other hand bonds typically offer the holder an assured return, assuming there is no default. Indeed, I would imagine the Retirement Fund currently has some corporate bonds in its portfolio at the present time presenting the coupons for payment from time to time as they mature and collecting the interest for either payment of pensions or "roll it over" and reinvest.

There is a big difference between being the owner (purchaser) of bonds and the issuer (seller). The seller (the NMI in this case) has to make it worthwhile for the buyer and, like every thing else in life, it can be very costly—to you know who—if not carefully thought through.

As my dear sweet granny once said, "Billy, don't trust the advice of amateurs, it's not their money. Besides, when it's time for the chickens to come home to roost, too many of them are either out of office or gone to greener pastures."

Editor's note: This is the 5th article in an intermittent series published in this paper concerning different issues related to bond financing. The other titles and dates are as follows and can be reviewed in our archives: "What's The Possibility of Bond Financing For The Retirement Fund?", Oct.24, 2008; "Bond Financing for Fund—Bad Idea", March 6, 2009; "A Few Thoughts On Evaluating Pension Obligation Bonds," 2 Parts, March 18 & 19, 2010; "The Retirement Fund: What A Difference Nine Years Made—or Did It?" & Another Look at Pension Obligation Bonds, April 16, 2010.

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MELL SPRINGLEAF	002E	4/17 Sat	4/15 Thu	4/15 Thu	4/13 Tue	4/10 Sat	4/23 Fri	4/19 Mon	4/18 Sun	4/11 Sun	4/11 Sun	4/19 Mon	4/23 Fri	4/25 Sun	4/27 Tue
MELL SILOSO	003E	4/24 Sat	4/22 Thu	4/22 Thu	4/20 Tue	4/17 Sat	4/30 Fri	4/26 Mon	4/25 Sun	4/18 Sun	4/18 Sun	4/26 Mon	4/30 Fri	5/2 Sun	5/4 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	037E	5/1 Sat	4/29 Thu	4/29 Thu	4/27 Tue	4/24 Sat	5/7 Fri	5/3 Mon	5/2 Sun	4/25 Sun	4/25 Sun	5/3 Mon	5/7 Fri	5/9 Sun	5/11 Tue
MELL SPRINGLEAF	003E	5/8 Sat	5/6 Thu	5/6 Thu	5/4 Tue	5/1 Sat	5/14 Fri	5/10 Mon	5/9 Sun	5/2 Sun	5/2 Sun	5/10 Mon	5/14 Fri	5/16 Sun	5/18 Tue
MELL SILOSO	004E	5/15 Sat	5/13 Thu	5/13 Thu	5/11 Tue	5/8 Sat	5/21 Fri	5/17 Mon	5/16 Sun	5/9 Sun	5/9 Sun	5/17 Mon	5/21 Fri	5/23 Sun	5/25 Tue
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Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA	ETD	ETA	ETA	ETA	ETA	ETA	ETA	ETA	ETA	ETA	ETA	ETA	ETA
		Guam		Guam	Yap	Koror	Davao	GenSan	Cebu	Hongkong	Kaoshiung	Busan	Yokohama	Manila	Singapore
MELL SPRINGLEAF	002E	5/1 Sat	5/2 Sun	5/2 Sun	5/4 Tue	5/5 Wed	5/7 Fri	5/9 Sun	SKIP	5/14 Fri	5/15 Sat	5/20 Thu	6/8 Tue	5/23 Sun	5/19 Wed
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MELL SENTOSA	037E	5/15 Sat	5/16 Sun	5/16 Sun	5/18 Tue	5/19 Wed	5/21 Fri	5/23 Sun	SKIP	5/28 Fri	5/29 Sat	6/3 Thu	6/22 Tue	6/6 Sun	6/2 Wed
MELL SPRINGLEAF	003E	5/22 Sat	5/23 Sun	5/23 Sun	SKIP	5/26 Wed	5/28 Fri	5/30 Sun	SKIP	6/4 Fri	6/5 Sat	6/10 Thu	6/29 Tue	6/13 Sun	6/9 Wed
MELL SILOSO	004E	5/29 Sat	5/30 Sun	5/30 Sun	6/1 Tue	6/2 Wed	6/4 Fri	6/6 Sun	SKIP	6/11 Fri	6/12 Sat	6/17 Thu	7/6 Tue	6/20 Sun	6/16 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	038E	6/5 Sat	6/6 Sun	6/6 Sun	SKIP	6/9 Wed	6/11 Fri	6/13 Sun	SKIP	6/18 Fri	6/19 Sat	6/24 Thu	7/13 Tue	6/27 Sun	6/23 Wed

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Coast Guard cutter makes port call in Guam

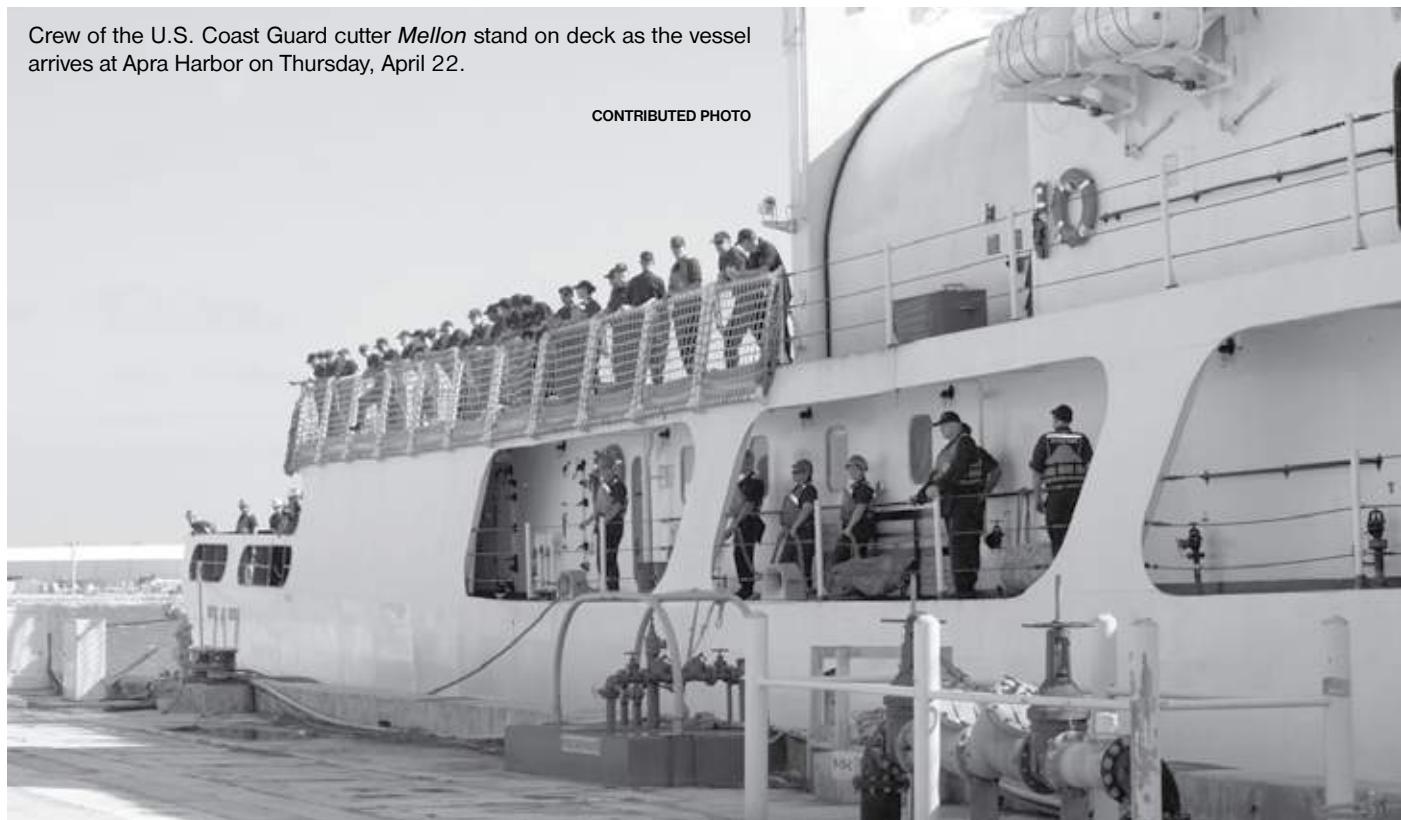
GUAM—The Seattle-based 378 foot cutter *Mellon* arrived at Apra Harbor on Thursday, April 22, en route to the Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training patrol, which is held to promote positive relationships and operational readiness in the region.

In the days prior to the cutter's arrival, there was much anticipation among the crew for the first rest and relaxation port call of the patrol. Popular activities were visiting the World War II monuments, snorkeling at Gab Gab Beach, mountain biking, boondie stomping, exploring many natural attractions like Tarzan Falls and Pagat Cave, relaxing on the beach and in the beautiful resorts, and sampling a few of the island's many great restaurants.

One event that quickly became a crew favorite was the cookout hosted by the Coast

Crew of the U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Mellon* stand on deck as the vessel arrives at Apra Harbor on Thursday, April 22.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Fiesta launches search for outstanding mom

Because of the huge success of the "I Love My Dad" Essay Writing Contest, Fiesta Resort and Spa is bringing back the competition, this time for Mom.

Fiesta Saipan launches the search for the "Best Mom on Saipan" promotion. To join, fathers with children ages 0 to 11 must submit an essay answering the question: "My kids love their mom because...." Children ages 12 to 21 must submit an essay answering the question: "I love my mom because...."

Submit entries via e-mail to oscar_yema@fiestasaipan.com, by mail to P.O. Box 501029, or hand-carry the essay in an envelope and send it to the front desk of the Fiesta Resort. All entries must have the subject heading "I love my



File photo shows Fiesta Resort and Spa's "Outstanding Father of the Year" awardees during the Father's Day celebration last year. The same will be done in this year's celebration of Mothers Day on May 9, 2010.

Mom because."

The entry must also contain a

picture of the mother and contact information.

Deadline for the submission of entries will be on May 5,

2010. Finalists will be chosen and the entire slate of finalists will be awarded plaques of recognition by Fiesta Saipan, presented to them by those who nominated them.

The Top 10 Best Mom on Saipan will be chosen from among the finalists and given plaques and a tribute during the Mother's Day celebration, to be held on Mother's Day at the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Saipan on May 9, 2010, from 11am to 2pm. The criteria for judging will be based solely on the essay submitted to Fiesta. Announcements will be made after the submission of entries.

If you believe your wife or your mother deserves to be recognized as the best mom, pay tribute to her by writing an essay and tell us a story about your Mom.

For inquiries, call Oscar Yema, events and outlets manager of Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan, at 483-6414 or 234-7171 Ext. 1585. The best essay writers will be given special prizes from Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan. (PR)

Guard Sector Guam Reserve on Saturday, which allowed the crew to enjoy some great food and socialize with colleagues stationed here.

The USCGC *Mellon* is a high endurance cutter homeported in Seattle, Washington. The cutter *Mellon* was designed to perform each of the Coast Guard's missions, which include search and rescue, defense operations, law enforcement, and environmental protection. The *Mellon* conducts Alaskan fishery patrols, enforcing international and domestic fishing requirements. *Mellon* patrols the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea, the Eastern Pacific down to South America.

The Coast Guard reminds the public to take proper safety precautions while enjoying all the great maritime activities Guam has to offer. Report all maritime emergencies to U. S. Coast Guard Sector Guam at 564-USCG. (USCG)

Limtiaco clears Senate Judiciary Committee

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo announced yesterday that the Senate Judiciary Committee has favorably reported the nomination of Attorney General Alicia Limtiaco for U.S. Attorney for Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. The Senate Judiciary Committee is chaired by Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont.

President Barack Obama submitted his nomination for Limtiaco on Feb. 24, 2010. Bordallo supported her nomination, and the full Senate must vote on her nomination before Limtiaco is confirmed as U.S. Attorney for Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands.

"I commend...Limtiaco for being cleared by the Senate Judiciary Committee," Bordallo said. "The favorable reporting of... Limtiaco's nomination allows the full Senate to vote on her nomination...Limtiaco has the right background to serve as U.S. Attorney for Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands."

"Limtiaco's nomination allows the full Senate to vote on her nomination...Limtiaco has the right background to serve as U.S. Attorney for Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. I thank Chairman Leahy for moving...Limtiaco's nomination forward and I hope that the Senate confirms her nomination very soon." (PR)

PAWS CORNER

'Lucky' dog up for adoption

Lucky is a male boondie dog that is thought to be about 4 years old. He has been de-wormed and treated for fleas and ticks.

Lucky is up for adoption to the right family. He would make a great companion dog for a farmer or outdoor man, as he seems to prefer the companion of men. Lucky does not like children, and should not be adopted by a family with numerous children, children who do not know how to properly and safely handle a dog, or live near numerous people. Lucky has a history of biting

neighborhood children when approached too quickly, so he needs to either live on a farm or live in a fenced yard.

Lucky would make a great family guard dog, as he does not seem to show any signs of aggression towards family members. However, again, he would best fulfill his role as a guard dog in a fenced yard where he could roam freely to protect the house and still be kept away from neighborhood children.

If you or someone you know would like to meet Lucky, contact PAWS at 285-PAWS.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT GUALO RAI, SPRING PLAZA, SAIPAN MP, 96950 TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315 April 28, 2010



THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CRM OFFICES:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Ichiban Marine Sports	04/12/10 SLRm-2010-X-036	Banana Boat	Garapan Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef APC	Approved (4/15/10)
2. Ichiban Marine Sports	04/12/10 SLRm-2010-X-037	Non-Motorized Marine Sports	Garapan Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef APC	Approved (4/15/10)
3. Ichiban Marine Sports	04/12/10 SLRm-2010-X-038	Managaha Transfer	Garapan Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef APC	Approved (4/15/10)
4. YTS Micronesia	04/23/10 SSm-2010-X-039	Filming Activities	Shoreline Areas	Shoreline APC	Approved (4/23/10)*
5. Bo-Boy's Marine Sports	04/22/10 SSm-2010-X-040	Beach Concession	Garapan	Shoreline APC	Under Review*
6. Bo-Boy's Marine Sports	04/22/10 SSm-2010-X-041	Managaha Transfer	Garapan Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef APC	Under Review*
7. Bo-Boy's Marine Sports	04/22/10 SSm-2010-X-042	Non-Motorized Marine Sports	Garapan Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef APC	Under Review*

Publication of the above list is in accordance with CRM Regulations, which require all permit applications to be published in a local newspaper within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the CRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the CRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APC's) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local CRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a CRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the CRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the CRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the CRM Regulations.

House minority leader: Hold off on hiring employees

But Fitial administration says certifications submitted are 'essential'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House Minority Leader Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan) said yesterday that the Fitial administration should hold off on hiring

employees which he said do not appear to be critical to the delivery of basic public services especially in these times of financial crisis.

Benavente cited Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's recent certifica-

tions for at least 24 vacant positions that need to be filled.

He said he believes some of these positions are critical to public health and safety, including a security guard at the Rota Health Center, three positions

for dispatcher 1 and one criminal records assistant at the Department of Public Safety, and four posts at the Department of Public Health.

But he said the need to fill up other positions is questionable,

including two at the Division of Agriculture, and five at the Department of Public Works.

The Fitial administration recently filled up the posts for Coastal Resources Management administrator, senior policy adviser, and special assistant for program and legislative review.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said "the certifications we have submitted are for positions essential to the func-

CDD backs public transportation system measure

Council on Developmental Disabilities executive director Pamela Sablan has expressed the Council's support on a bill that would address the lack of a public transportation system in the CNMI.

Authored by Rep. Ray N. Yumul (R-Saipan), House Bill 17-43 seeks to establish a Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority under the Office of the Governor.

The Office of Transit Authority shall be tasked to review, apply, receive, manage and use federal grants from the Federal Transit Administration to address the lack of a comprehen-

sive accessible public transportation system in the CNMI. With the collaboration of government agencies and the private sector, it shall "assess the Commonwealth's transportation needs and develop a viable public transportation system."

In a letter of support addressed to Ways & Means Committee chair Ramon Basa, Sablan said that public transportation is a "critical service" that would enable people to go about their daily activities. The passage of the bill would bring the public "a step closer to providing individuals... with the means of affordable

and accessible transit system that will benefit all."

Sablan believes that HB 17-43 can address the need to enhance the services provided by the Call-A-Ride Transportation Program in the CNMI. The program, which offers accessible demand responsive transportation for people with disabilities and elderly citizens, allows people with disabilities "to live independently by allowing them direct access to employment and other critical services."

According to Sablan, the number of people with disabilities who avail of the program continues to increase, leaving a

significant number of them unable to avail of the service.

Sablan said the establishment of the Office of Transit Authority will allocate federal funds to create a "public bus system with the supplementary support of the paratransit (Call-A-Ride) service and inter-island ferry system which will play a significant role in finding solutions to the numerous challenges that is facing the CNMI today."

(Saipan Tribune)

tionality of each respective department or activity."

Other government employees whose salaries will be cut by 10 hours per pay period by mid-May have criticized the Fitial administration for hiring Department of Public Lands consultant Felix R. Nogis through a sole source, \$60,000 contract.

DLNR also wanted to award Nogis with a \$40,000 sole source contract, but the contract processing has been snagged by funding issues and questions on sole source justification.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 15th birthday shoutout to Felipe Evan Jr. Litulumar (a.k.a. DuuDuu), who is celebrating his special day today, April 28, 2010. May you have many more birthdays to come! Love, Mom, Dad and your siblings.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



PDI DONATION

Pacific Development Inc. president Yoichi Matsumura presents a \$500 Educational Tax Credit donation to Marianas High School principal Karen Borja on April 26, 2010.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rota National Park study bill begins to move in Congress

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands will hold a hearing on H.R. 4686, the Rota Cultural and Natural Resources Study Act, today, April 27 (April 28, Saipan time).

U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) introduced the bill on Feb. 24. It authorizes the Secretary of Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating certain prehistoric and historic sites and limestone forests on Rota as part of the National Park System. The study is a required first step before any area can be considered as a National Park.

Rota Rep. Teresita A. Santos has been invited by Sablan to testify before the Subcommittee. Santos is chairperson of the House Standing Committee on Natural Resources in the NMI Legislature.

"I am very glad that Chairman Raúl Grijalva agreed to my request to get my bill moving," said Sablan. "And I am also very glad that Representative Santos was willing to come all this way to talk to the Subcommittee about what makes Rota such a special place and why consideration should be given to

creating a national park there."

In addition to assessing the national significance of ancient Latte Stone Culture locations on Rota, the remnants of Japanese-era colonialism, and the unique limestone forests that survive on Rota, the National Park Service would also conduct public hearings as part of the study process.

This would give the people of Rota a direct opportunity to say whether they want a park and what parts of their island should be included.

"I was asked by people on Rota to look into the possibility of a national park," Sablan said. "And this study is the necessary first step. There was a survey done by the Park Service in 2005

that reported that there are areas of national significance and that it would be feasible to have a park on Rota. But the survey that my bill authorizes will be much more in-depth. The Park Service estimates it will cost from \$250,000 to \$300,000 and take up to 3 years to complete."

Sablan says that in addition to preserving the past and the environment, a Park makes sense for Rota because of the island's efforts to market itself as an eco-

tourism destination. "Having a National Park would certainly boost this form of economic development for Rota."

Another important consideration is that with the U.S. military poised to begin development on Guam there will likely be the need for environmental mitigation elsewhere in the Marianas. The creation of protected areas on Rota could provide that.

There are also agricultural and residential developments on Rota that are presently stalled because of habitat considerations for endangered species. These constraints on use could potentially be lifted by setting aside suitable habitat within a National Park on Rota.

The hearing begins at 10am (EST). Interested persons may submit written testimony to Chairman Raúl Grijalva and Ranking Member Rob Bishop (1333 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515; fax: 202-226-2301). Comments may also be sent directly to Sablan (423 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515; fax: 202-2264249) for inclusion in the record. (PR)



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INVITATION FOR BID

NMHC IFB2010-R-002

(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds)

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, hereby give notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids for the Installation of the Holding Tank for the Blue Grotto, in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package consisting of Scope of Work, Technical Specifications, Plans and Bid Documents will be available on or after Friday, April 16, 2010, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of Twenty-Five (\$25.00) is required for each set. Payment shall be by money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference" as amended by Public Law 15-95 and further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

Bidders are also advised that this project is subject to compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act. All wage rates for laborers, mechanics and all other employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid the current minimum wage or the wage determination for the Commonwealth as specified in CM2010001 for the Mariana Islands.

A pre-bid conference will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, April 30, 2010, at the proposed project site in Marpi, Saipan, and all interested bidders will be given the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the required work and ask questions regarding the project. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder.

Sealed Bids must be marked "NMHC IFB2010-R-002". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director, Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, Thursday, May 6, 2010. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, May 6, 2010 and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside of the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than May 6, 2010 AND must be received by Procurement and Supply no later than May 17, 2010. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, May 18, 2010. However, if no Notices of Intent to Bid are received from bidders outside of the CNMI, the bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m., local time, May 6, 2010.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00), a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be in the form of a Certified Check, Cashier's Check, or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Installation of the Holding Tank for the Blue Grotto". Surety companies must hold a Certificate of Authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the NMIAIC §70.30.3.301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment Bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000. Pursuant to Governor's Directive 251 dated March 15, 2006, bidders are required to include a Clearance from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner with respect to the financial bonding capability of the bidders' chosen Surety. In addition, the contractor will be required to deliver a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments or other bond obligations) exceeded the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is forty-five (45) calendar days upon issuance of an official written Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for the delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at One Hundred Dollars (US\$100.00) per calendar day.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant, American Recovery and Reinvestment (CDBG-R) funding provided to the Commonwealth that mandates ALL MATERIALS PURCHASED AND INCORPORATED INTO THE BUILDING/WORK MUST BE MANUFACTURED OR PRODUCED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

This project which goal is to provide economic stimulus as well as jobs creation is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires recipients of HUD funds and the contractors to help insure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents and the businesses that serve them "to the maximum extent feasible."

NMHC hereby notifies bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, women and small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and disability status.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any defects in the said proposals, if in the sole opinion of NMHC, to do so would be in its best interest. All proposals will become the property of the Government.

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane
Board Chairwoman & Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Division of Procurement & Supply

Business

Court: Wal-Mart to face massive class-action suit

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A sharply divided federal appeals court on Monday exposed Wal-Mart Stores Inc. to billions of dollars in legal damages when it ruled a massive class action lawsuit alleging gender discrimination over pay for female workers can go to trial.

In its 6-5 ruling, the 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals said the world's largest private employer will have to face charges that it pays women less than men for the same jobs and that female employees receive fewer promotions and have to wait longer for those promotions than male counterparts.

The retailer has fiercely fought the lawsuit since it was first filed by six women in federal court in San Francisco in 2001 and said it would appeal the decision to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The ruling "opens up every company in America that has

employees to class actions like this," said Theodore Boutrous, the company's lead lawyer on the largest gender bias class action in U.S. history.

The appeals court upheld a lower court ruling allowing the lawsuit to go forward as a class action, which attorneys for the Wal-Mart employees said encompasses more than 1 million women. Wal-Mart disputes that figure and asserts fewer than 500,000 women are covered by the decision Monday.

Either way, the company could lose billions of dollars if it is found liable and required to fork over back pay to the affected women.

The appeals court did order the trial court judge to reconsider two important issues that would alter any potential pay out.

U.S. District Court Judge Vaughn Walker in San Francisco was told to determine the

appropriateness of punitive damages and whether former employees at the time of the 2001 filing of the lawsuit should be part of the class action. The case was transferred to Walker after the resignation of U.S. District Court Judge Martin Jenkins, who ruled against Wal-Mart on those two issues.

Wal-Mart employs 1.4 million employees in the United States and 2.1 million workers in 8,000 stores worldwide, and argued that the conventional rules of class action suits should not apply because each outlet operates as an independent business. Since it doesn't have a companywide policy of discrimination, Wal-Mart argued that women alleging gender bias should file individual lawsuits against individual stores.

Finally, the retailer argued that the lawsuit is simply too big to defend.

Goldman CEO, 'Fabulous Fab' facing Congress

WASHINGTON (AP)—The CEO of Goldman Sachs and other executives from the Wall Street powerhouse are coming before Congress 10 days after the government accused the firm of fraud. The Senate panel hearing their testimony Tuesday alleges that Goldman used a strategy that allowed it profit from the housing meltdown and reap billions at the expense of clients.

Goldman executives misled investors in complex mortgage securities that turned toxic, investigators for the Senate subcommittee say. They point to a trove of some 2 million e-mails and other Goldman documents obtained in an 18-month investigation. Excerpts from the documents were released Monday, a day before the hearing bringing CEO Lloyd Blankfein and the others before the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations.

Blankfein says in his prepared testimony that Goldman didn't

US newspaper circulation falls 8.7 percent

NEW YORK (AP)—Circulation continues to drop severely at U.S. newspapers, though the rate of decline slowed from the previous six-month reporting period.

Figures released Monday by the Audit Bureau of Circulations show average weekday circulation fell 8.7 percent in the six months that ended March 31, compared with the same period a year earlier. Sunday circulation fell 6.5 percent.

That's a slight improvement from April through September of last year, when average weekday circulation dropped 10.6 percent from a year earlier and Sunday circulation fell 7.5 percent.

Nation

Bad habits can age you by 12 years, study suggests

CHICAGO (AP)—Four common bad habits combined—smoking, drinking too much, inactivity and poor diet—can age you by 12 years, sobering new research suggests.

The findings are from a study that tracked nearly 5,000 British adults for 20 years, and they highlight yet another reason to adopt a healthier lifestyle.

ON THE NET:

Archives: <http://www.archinternmed.com>

Overall, 314 people studied had all four unhealthy behaviors. Among them, 91 died during the study, or 29 percent. Among the 387 healthiest people with none of the four habits, only 32 died, or about 8 percent.

The risky behaviors were:

smoking tobacco; downing more than three alcoholic drinks per day for men and more than two daily for women; getting less than two hours of physical activity per week; and eating fruits and vegetables fewer than three times daily.

Furor grows over Arizona's illegal immigration law

PHOENIX (AP)—The furor over Arizona's new law cracking down on illegal immigrants grew Monday as opponents used refried beans to smear swastikas on the state Capitol, civil rights leaders demanded a boycott of the state, and the Obama administration weighed a possible legal challenge.

Activists are planning a challenge of their own, hoping to block the law from taking effect by arguing that it encroaches on the federal government's authority to regulate immigration and violates people's constitutional rights by giving police too much power.

The measure—set to take effect in late July or early August—would make it a crime under state law to be in the U.S. illegally. It directs state and local police to question people about their immigration



AP
Amaria Lopez, of Phoenix, protests at the Arizona Capitol on Sunday, April 25, 2010.

status if there is reason to suspect they are illegal.

"If you look or sound foreign, you are going to be subjected to never-ending requests for police to confirm your

identity and to confirm your citizenship," said Alessandra Soler Meetze, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Arizona, which is exploring legal action.

Employees at the Capitol came to work Monday to find that vandals had smeared swastikas on the windows. And protesters gathered for an eighth straight day to speak out against a law they say will lead to rampant racial profiling of anyone who looks Hispanic.

The White House would not rule out the possibility that the administration would take legal action against Arizona. President Barack Obama, who warned last week that the measure could lead to police abuses, asked the Justice Department to complete a review of the law's implications before deciding how to proceed.

Oil leak from sunken rig off La. could foul coast

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Crews raced to protect the Gulf of Mexico coastline Monday as a remote sub tried to shut off an underwater oil well that's gushing 42,000 gallons a

day from the site of a wrecked drilling platform.

If crews cannot stop the leak quickly, they might need to drill another well to redirect the oil, a laborious process that

could take about two months while oil washes up along a broad stretch of shore, from the white-sand beaches of Florida's Panhandle to the swamps of Louisiana.

ACROSS THE NATION

Homeless good Samaritan left to die on NYC street

NEW YORK (AP)—The homeless man lay face down, unmoving, on the sidewalk outside an apartment building, blood from knife wounds pooling underneath his body. One person passed by in the early morning. Then another, and another. Video footage from a surveillance camera shows at least seven people going by, some turning their heads to look, others stopping to gawk. One even lifted the homeless man's body, exposing what appeared to be blood on the sidewalk underneath him, before walking away. It wasn't until after the 31-year-old Guatemalan immigrant had been lying there for nearly an hour that emergency workers arrived, and by then, it was too late. Hugo Alfredo Tale-Yax—who police said was stabbed while intervening to help a woman being attacked—had died.

Fundraising spares Hollywood sign from sprawl

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Hollywood sign, a beacon to stars and star-struck alike, has been saved from urban sprawl under a land conservation pact announced Monday after a donation by Playboy founder Hugh Hefner capped a multi-

million-dollar fundraising drive. "It's a symbol of dreams and a symbol of opportunity and hope," actor-turned Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger told a press conference below the towering letters. "The Hollywood sign will welcome dreamers, artists and Austrian bodybuilders for generations to come." The huge sign overlooking the city was in danger of having its distinctive setting on the flanks of the Santa Monica Mountains crowded by construction of estate homes on nearby Cahuenga Peak.

Warrants suggest Calif killer followed 11-year-old

EL CAJON, Calif. (AP)—An 11-year-old girl told police a man followed her home from school the day before registered sex offender John Albert Gardner III raped and murdered a 17-year-old girl in a nearby park, according to search warrants unsealed Monday. The documents also said two women joggers were convinced they had encountered Gardner on the afternoon of Feb. 25, the day he attacked and killed Chelsea King when she went for a run in the park. One woman said she was convinced a man she briefly spoke with about coyotes and snakes was Gardner.

Asia

Pacquiao runs for office in RP



Filipino boxing great Manny Pacquiao waits for his turn to speak during his campaign sortie at Alabel township, Sarangani province in southern Philippines on Tuesday April 20, 2010.

SAN MIGUEL, Philippines (AP)—The pounding beat of “Eye of the Tiger” from “Rocky III” blasted from speakers as Manny Pacquiao’s black Hummer pulled up at an open-air basketball court on a recent humid evening.

The world welterweight boxing champion, seeking a seat in the Philippine Congress, waved to hundreds of cheering fans as he emerged from the vehicle in jeans and a blue vest bearing the name of his political party, the People’s Champ Movement.

His earlier life as a poor laborer and baker only a memory, the world’s best pound-for-pound boxer and one of the wealthiest men in his impoverished homeland is now trying to translate his enormous appeal into votes in the May 10 election.

“I don’t want to be just your boxing idol,” he told the crowd from a makeshift stage on the back of a truck. “I also want to be your idol in public service.”

If successful, Pacquiao would join many other Filipino celebrities and former athletes who have won seats in Congress in the past two decades, a departure from the past when the legislature used to be the exclusive domain of powerful landed dynasties and old clans.

Some celebrity candidates have been the butt of jokes for their inability to craft complex policies and engage in debates. Movie star Joseph Estrada, a college dropout, was ridiculed after winning the presidency in 1998 and forced out over corruption allegations in 2001. He is back as a long-shot candidate for president.

Pacquiao, who lost a congressional race in 2007, faces an uphill battle against an opponent from an entrenched political family, said political analyst Ramon Casiple. Voters today look for a record of service and don’t vote on popularity alone, he added.

The 31-year-old boxer known

to his fans as “Pacman,” the holder of seven world boxing titles, has added to his fame—and riches—since then.

He made at least \$12 million in his latest win over Joshua Clottey in March, after pocketing \$30 million for beating Oscar De La Hoya in 2008 and Ricky Hatton in 2009, according to Forbes magazine, which lists him as one of the world’s richest athletes.

Pacquiao also has a side career as a singer, and his smiling face adorns ads for dandruff shampoo, food products and Nike shoes.

“I could just sit back and relax and not have anything to do with politics. I could just travel around and enjoy my life with my family,” Pacquiao told the crowd in San Miguel, a remote corn-farming village in Sarangani province in the southern Philippines. “But I came from a very poor family, and I cannot turn my back on the poor.”

ASIAN BRIEFS

Protesters disrupt Bangkok elevated trains

BANGKOK (AP)—Protesters broke into an elevated rail station in Thailand’s capital and threw tires on the platform Tuesday in their campaign to remove the government, prompting authorities to briefly suspend service and send soldiers to guard train stops. The four-hour closure of Bangkok’s Skytrain caused commuter chaos and raised concerns in the tense capital where hundreds of soldiers armed with automatic weapons were deployed to guard stations and other major city boulevards. Deputy Prime Minister Suthep Thaugsuban warned that security forces would “intensify operations” but did not elaborate or say if authorities would try to evict protesters from the central Bangkok shopping neighborhood they have occupied for seven weeks.

SKorean on her way to reach Annapurna’s summit

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—A South Korean was making her way to the top of Annapurna in Nepal on Tuesday in the final hurdle of a fiercely contested race against a Spanish rival to become the first woman to scale all 14 of the Himalayas’ highest peaks. Oh Eun-sun, 44, is on a mission to

conquer all 14 Himalayan peaks over 8,000 meters, or 26,247 feet, above sea level. She was on track to reach the 26,545-foot (8,091-meter) peak of Annapurna—her final challenge—around 0600 GMT, Park Eun-joo, an official from outerwear maker Blackyak, said in Seoul. Oh is being chased by Edurne Pasaban of Spain, who is also seeking to become the first woman to scale all 14 peaks. The 36-year-old has only the 26,330-foot-high (8,027-meter-high) Mount Shisha Pangma left to scale.

Hong Kong police make largest drug bust

HONG KONG (AP)—In their largest haul ever, police in Hong Kong have seized 820 pounds (372 kilograms) of cocaine from a suburban house that was reportedly part of a botched drug shipment sent to the southern Chinese territory by mistake. Officers discovered the stash—which has a street value of 337 million Hong Kong dollars (\$43.4 million)—while investigating a missing person report in the suburban Fanling district on Sunday, Hong Kong police said in a statement. The cocaine was stored in 26 boxes on the roof of the three-story village house, the South China Morning Post reported Tuesday.

World

Mexican president condemns Arizona immigrant law

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexican President Felipe Calderon on Monday condemned Arizona’s tough new immigration law as discriminatory and warned that relations with the U.S. border state will suffer.

The measure, which will make it a crime under state law to be an illegal immigrant, “opens the door to intolerance, hate, discrimination and abuse in law enforcement,” Calderon said.

Calderon said he had instructed the Foreign Relations Department to double its efforts to protect the rights of Mexicans living in the United

States and seek help from lawyers and immigration experts.

“Nobody can sit around with their arms crossed in the face of decisions that so clearly affect our countrymen,” Calderon said in a speech at the Institute for Mexicans Abroad.

The Arizona law restored immigration to the forefront of U.S.-Mexico relations, which had largely been focused on deeper cooperation in the drug war.

The government of the Mexican state of Sonora—which borders Arizona—announced it would not attend a cooperation meeting the two states have held

Haiti tosses kidnapping charges against Americans

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—A Haitian judge said Monday he has dismissed kidnapping and criminal association charges against 10 American missionaries detained for trying to take a busload of children out of the country after the Jan. 12 earthquake.

Judge Bernard Saint-Vil said Laura Silsby, the last of the 10 missionaries jailed in Haiti, still faced a lesser charge for allegedly organizing the effort to transport the 33 children to an orphanage they were setting up in the Dominican Republic.

Iraqi court bans candidates in election disarray

BAGHDAD (AP)—An Iraqi court threw the nation’s disputed election into deeper disarray Monday by disqualifying 52 candidates, including one winner, in a legal ruling that cast doubt on the slim lead of a Sunni-backed alliance over the prime minister’s political coalition.

The decision by the three-judge election court intensified political turmoil and dealt a new setback to efforts to form a new government in Iraq nearly two months after the vote for a

Silsby faces up to three years in prison if convicted on the remaining charge, the “organization of irregular trips,” from a 1980 statute restricting travel out of Haiti signed by then-dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier.

Silsby declined comment from her jail cell. Shiller Roi, a lawyer for Silsby, declined comment, saying he hadn’t yet received the judge’s written decision.

The judge told The Associated Press that the charge of organizing the trip was also pending against Jean Sainvil,

new 325-member parliament, which must select the next prime minister.

U.S. officials had hoped the elections would boost efforts to reconcile Iraq’s divided ethnic and religious groups as American military forces prepare to withdraw combat forces by September, with the rest to follow by the end of next year. But the maneuvering following the inconclusive vote instead has created a giant political vacuum and fears of new violence.

WORLD BRIEFS

Panama’s ex-leader Noriega arrives in France

PARIS (AP)—Former Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega has arrived in France to face money laundering charges after being extradited from the United States. A judicial official says he arrived Tuesday morning. The official was not authorized to be named. Noriega’s French lawyer says the former leader will face a prosecutor to hear the charges, and then see a judge in Paris who will determine whether he should be jailed pending an eventual trial. Noriega spent years in a prison outside Miami for drug racketeering. French authorities accuse Noriega of laundering \$3 million in drug proceeds by purchasing luxury apartments in Paris.

Nigeria: 3 journalists killed in weekend violence

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP)—Gunmen shot and killed a Nigerian journalist at his home the same day two others died while attempting to cover fighting between Christians and Muslims in the nation’s restive central highlands, authorities said Monday. The outbreak of violence highlights the daily dangers confronting local journalists in Africa’s most populous nation, a country where bribery and corruption prevails at all levels of

annual for four decades. The meeting of the Sonora-Arizona Commission was set for June in Phoenix, Arizona.

“This is not about a breaking of relations with Arizona, but rather a way to protest the approval of the law,” the state government said in a statement.

The law, set to take effect in late July or August, will require police to question people about their immigration status if they suspect they are there illegally. Day laborers can be arrested for soliciting work if they are in the U.S. illegally, and police departments can be sued if they don’t carry out the law.

The judge, who spoke to AP in a brief phone interview, did not explain the reasons for his decisions.

It was the latest development in a case that emerged amid the chaos following the devastating earthquake, which the government said killed an estimated 230,000 people and left hundreds of thousands of people homeless.

It also threatened to anger anew Sunni voters, who had thrown their support behind secular candidate Ayad Allawi’s bloc to give it a two-seat lead.

The winning candidate who would lose his seat was from Allawi’s Iraqiya coalition. Sunnis largely have spurned Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, and their anger against the Shiite-led government in 2006 and 2007 was one of the key motivators for their bloody insurgency that only recently abated.

King accepts resignation of Belgian government

BRUSSELS (AP)—Belgium King Albert II accepted the government’s resignation Monday after negotiations failed to resolve a long-simmering dispute between Dutch- and French-speaking politicians over a bilingual voting district in and around Brussels, the country’s capital. The king had waited since last week to see if last-ditch talks could keep the coalition government of Prime Minister Yves Leterme together. But late Monday, it became clear the differences between the linguistic groups were too deep. Elections could now be called in early June. “I regret that the necessary dialogue to achieve a negotiated settlement did not produce the result we hoped for,” Leterme said in a statement.

Campus Life

Tinian kids help celebrate National Library Week



Students from Tinian Elementary School (Kindergarten to 6th graders) pose with AmeriCorps volunteers and Tinian Public Library staff.

Tinian Public Library concluded its weeklong activities for children in celebration of National Library Week with a movie night treat on Friday, April 23, 2010.

Daily activities included Read-A-Loud for kids, arts and crafts, energizer, mini-siestas, book and ID cards amnesty program. Prizes were given to children who did best in Journal Writing, Caldecott and Newberry books treasure hunt game, tongue twisters, and

Guess-How-Many-Books-You-Need-to-Read-Before-You-Enter-College Game.

Appreciation and gratitude are extended to the following individual who gave their unconditional support: Mrs. Doris Dela Cruz, Allen Perez, MOT-



Mrs. Doris Dela Cruz, wife of Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz, reads a book in the finale of the Read-A-Loud activity on Friday, April 23, 2010.



Tinian Public Library concluded its weeklong celebration of National Library Week with the awarding of prizes.

PIO; AmeriCorps coordinator Brenda Safer, Tinian Jr/Sr. High School-AmeriCorps volunteers, Mrs. Arley Long, Councilman Joseph SN. Cruz, Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, Long Feng Corp., U-Save, J & J Mart, 3K Mart, Family Market (Kim's),

JC Café & Restaurant and special 'thank you' to Joeten Kiyu Public Library headed by director John Oliver Gonzales for providing us promotional t-shirts, bags, school supplies, arts and crafts material, and posters for the library. (PR)

PEIR program now accepting applications for 2010-2011

The Pacific Educator in Residence program offers a one-year residency for educators from American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia (Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap), Guam, Hawai'i, the Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Since its inception in 1986, 59 individuals have completed the PEIR program. Many of our PEIRs have become teachers and administrators in schools and educational agencies in their communities. Four individuals who completed the program subsequently became PREL staff members. Ms. Evelyn Joseph is now PREL's Director of the Republic of the

work. PEIRs focus on learning experiences that maximize professional development opportunities and benefit their schools and communities. In general, PEIRs remain employed in their home entities and return at the end of their one-year term.

Since its inception in 1986, 59 individuals have completed the PEIR program. Many of our PEIRs have become teachers and administrators in schools and educational agencies in their communities. Four individuals who completed the program subsequently became PREL staff members. Ms. Evelyn Joseph is now PREL's Director of the Republic of the

Marshall Islands Parent Information Resource Center, and Ms. Keres Petres is PREL's Field-Based Reading Specialist at the Chuuk Service Center. Some of our PEIRs have moved on to notable positions in education: Mr. Casiano Shoniber is the Secretary of Education for the Federated States of Micronesia Department of Education in Pohnpei, and Mr. Peter James is the Chief of Secondary Schools for the Chuuk State School System.

There are four opportunities available from September 2010 through August 2011: ■ Grades 4-5 English Language Arts/ELL Teacher (based in PREL CNMI Service Center)

■ Library and Information Literacy Initiatives (based in the successful candidate's local PREL Service Center)

■ Parent Information Resource Center (based in the PREL RMI Service Center)

■ Research and Evaluation (based in the PREL Honolulu office)

If you are interested in applying for this excellent opportunity, or you know someone who is, visit PREL's PEIR Program Web site at <http://www.prel.org/opportunities/pacific-educators-in-residence-program.aspx> for complete details and application form. The application deadline is Monday, May 31, 2010. (PREL)

Changing earth

By JULLIANE BIGUERAS

Earth is changing everyday
And we can't deny, it's because of our way
We see pollution in our everyday lives
People see it, children, husbands and wives
Trees are always being cut down
Turned into paper and shipped into town
Our beaches were not as clean as before
I'm afraid if we keep polluting we'll just do more
Our environment isn't that healthy for us
Because of the cars, the trucks and the bus
But together we can make a new way
To make a new environment and a new day
Our beaches could be clean again
If we lend a hand and be friend
We can plant trees in twos threes and fives
And increase the amount of oxygen in our lives
So let's take care of our Earth and give it time
Though it's not worth a penny a nickel or dime
But you'll feel good once you've seen
That everyone is going green

Julliane Bigueras is a sixth grade student at the Garapan Elementary School.

Island Snapshots



ENVIRONMENT EXPO

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

▲ James Eller, left, of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service briefs Garapan Elementary School students on environmental issues at the Environmental Expo on Wednesday at the American Memorial Park in Garapan.

CARNEGIE TRIUMPH

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

► The 40-member Saipan Southern High School Manta Ray Concert Band gathered in front of New York's Carnegie Hall along with musical director William R. DeWitt after their performance on Tuesday afternoon, April 13, 2010. The student musicians received a framed copy of the statement made in their honor by CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan, who was on hand for the milestone event.



NMC'S CHARLIE'S ANGELS

Members of the NMC Criminal Justice Student Organization were recently taken to the CNMI Department of Public Safety Shooting Range to try out the different tactical ammunitions and firearms used by the local police as part of Clyde Norita's Police Organization and Operations class. Sgt. Jason Tarkong and Officer David Hosono of DPS and Lt. James Ayuyu of Ports Police were on hand to supervise. Kneeling, from left, are Ton A. Benavente, Matt Fujihira, Christopher Lely, Tarkong, Roland Dowai, Dan Manibusan, Christian Delos Santos and Ed Chen. Back row, Clyde Norita (instructor), Vivian Linen, Jasmine Camacho, Jadine Hockett, Lisa George, Christine Lely, Judy Dlg. Torres (CJSO adviser), Patricia Kaipat, Ayuyu and Hosono (Range Master).



GRAND OPENING

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

▲ From left, Bridge Capital LLC office/senior asset manager Lisa M. Frederickson, Bridge Capital chief operations officer John R. Mulder, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, and Atty. Joseph N. Camacho cut the ceremonial ribbon for the grand opening of Bridge Capital LLC's worldwide headquarters on Micro Beach Road in Garapan on Saturday afternoon.

DPL CLEANUP

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

► Department of Public Lands employees and officers participate in the Islandwide Cleanup, which was held on April 23, 2010. The assigned area for DPL was from Micro-Toyota to the Chalan Kiya Mobil Gas Station.



IN APPRECIATION

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan, Justice Alejandro C. Castro and Judge David A. Wiseman present departing Supreme Court law clerk Daniel C. Stafford with a plaque commemorating Stafford's exemplary performance initially as a law clerk for the Supreme Court and most recently as its clerk of court and legal counsel, in simple ceremonies at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

Life & Style

More medical tests are planned for Bret Michaels

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Doctors plan further testing to help pinpoint the source of the brain hemorrhage that is keeping Bret Michaels in intensive care, according to a post Monday on the rocker's website.

A report from doctors is expected this week. The website doesn't say where Michaels, 47, is hospitalized.

"Please remember Bret is, and always has been, a fighter and survivor and is under the best medical care possible," the post added.

His New York-based publicist, Joann Mignano, on Friday confirmed a report on People magazine's website that said



Michaels

the former Poison frontman was rushed to intensive care late Thursday after a severe headache. Doctors discovered bleeding at the base of his brain stem, the report said.

Michaels is a contestant on Donald Trump's competitive reality show, "The Celebrity Apprentice." He has served as one of the season's most outspoken celebrities and has so far avoided being fired in the boardroom.

At the end of Sunday's episode, an announcer acknowledged his condition and said everyone at NBC "wishes Bret Michaels a speedy recovery."

Michaels had an emergency appen-

deotomy April 12 after complaining of stomach pains before he was scheduled to perform at Sea World in San Antonio. He later wrote on his website that although the surgery "has taken its toll," doctors expected him to make a full recovery.

Before joining the third season of "The Celebrity Apprentice," Michaels starred as the lothario on VH1's lusty reality dating series "Rock of Love" from 2007 to 2009. For three seasons, Michaels searched for the women of his dreams amid a sea of implants, tattoos and thongs.

He also served as a judge on the third season of the USA singing competition "Nashville Star" in 2005.



This June 6, 1990 file photo shows a Volkswagen minivan then belonging to Dr. Jack Kevorkian at a Michigan State Police garage in Pontiac, Mich. AP

Jameson says martial arts star 'lashed out' at her

HUNTINGTON BEACH, California (AP)—Mixed martial arts star Tito Ortiz was arrested on suspicion of domestic violence Monday at the home he shares with his longtime partner, former adult film actress Jenna Jameson.

Police Lt. Mike Reynolds said Ortiz, the former Ultimate Fighting Championship light heavyweight champion, was taken to the Huntington Beach jail and was released after posting \$25,000 bail.

Reynolds said police can't make an arrest on suspicion of domestic violence unless there's a "visible injury," and the unnamed victim's injuries met that standard. Reynolds wouldn't elaborate, saying only that Ortiz and the victim have been "extremely cooperative."

Jameson and her father spoke to the celebrity website TMZ.com and other reporters outside the home Monday. Wearing a wrap on her right elbow, Jameson described herself as "completely shocked" by the incident, saying Ortiz had "lashed out" at her, leaving her feeling "betrayed."

The 35-year-old Ortiz is among the most decorated and popular fighters in mixed martial arts history. He was the UFC's light heavyweight champion from 2000 to 2003 during the formative years of the sport's promotion, making five title defenses before losing his belt to Randy Couture.

Ortiz, whose nickname is the Huntington Beach Bad Boy, is a former collegiate wrestler who has been competing in mixed martial arts since 1997. He



In this May 24, 2008 file photo, mixed martial arts star Tito Ortiz, right, is seen with Jenna Jameson after his fight at UFC 84 at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas. AP

has been in a relationship with Jameson since 2006, and she gave birth to twin boys in March 2009.

After his career declined amid sev-

eral injury problems, including major back surgery, Ortiz left the UFC in 2008 in a bitter dispute with president Dana White, his former manager.

hyperventilated.

"We were expecting this to be the biggest concert we ever had, but we just couldn't have foreseen this scale," said Grant Denyer, the weather presenter for Network Seven's Sunrise program, which was planning to broadcast the open-air concert.

Police said the station was well prepared, but that the frenzy of 5,000 fans got out of control.

"They wouldn't listen to our directions, so hence they left us with no option," Deputy Commissioner Dave Owens told reporters, adding it was a concern that so many youngsters were out at night without their parents.

Monica Caruana, 14, said the com-

motion started when the venue opened early.

"The doors were meant to open at 5, but they opened at 3 for some reason and everyone bolted," she said, adding that one of her friends was "knocked out" in the chaos. The singer was meant to take the stage just before 8 a.m.

Jessica Whatmore said she feared she would be trampled in all the pushing and shoving.

"I couldn't wait to get out of there," said the 13-year-old.

After the cancellation, many of the girls went to Network Seven's studios, where they caught a glimpse of Bieber through a window before he performed his hit "Baby" on the stage there.

Justin Bieber concert canceled after crowd crush

SYDNEY (AP)—Thousands of frenzied teenagers, who spent the night camped out by Sydney Harbour awaiting a concert by pop star Justin Bieber, surged toward the venue Monday morning, sending at least eight girls to the hospital and injuring several more.

Police canceled the performance after the swarm, which may have begun when rumors spread that the 16-year-old Canadian heartthrob had arrived early. In the crush, at least 10 girls fainted, and paramedics had to pull them out of the crowd, according to Australia's Network Seven. Of the eight sent to the hospital, one fractured her knee cap, though most had

eBay de-lists Kevorkian death van, citing policy

DETROIT (AP)—Online auction site eBay pulled a listing Monday for a van used by Dr. Jack Kevorkian to perform several assisted suicides, saying the sale of the van would violate the company's policy against the sale of murder-related collectables.

Jack Finn, a retired used auto parts dealer, put the 1968 Volkswagen van once owned by Kevorkian up for auction on eBay last week. With three days left in the auction, the top bid placed for it was \$3,400 at 12:30 p.m. EDT Monday, but the ad had been pulled an hour later.

In an e-mail message, eBay told The Associated Press it "does not allow the sale of items closely associated with notorious murderers within the last 100 years."

"We carefully consider all the details before deciding to remove such listings when they're brought to our attention, looking at the entire posting to determine if eBay policy has been violated," eBay said.

In an e-mail to Finn, eBay said: "The listing was removed because it violated the eBay Murderabilia policy."

"I don't run eBay, Craigslist or the world," Finn said. He said Auburn, Ind.-based Kruse Auctions has agreed to sell the van at its May 13-16 auction.

The 82-year-old Kevorkian has been in the news lately because of Saturday's premiere of the HBO movie "You don't Know Jack." Al Pacino plays Kevorkian in the movie.

A replica of the VW appears in the movie.

Kevorkian used the van while assisting in several deaths, including the poisoning of an Alzheimer's patient that launched his public effort in 1990.

Finn said he bought the van in 1997, when he was in the used auto parts business. He said he since has retired from the Auburn Hills-based company, Recycled Bugs, and put the van up for sale to clear out warehouse space.

'Star Trek' scripts, Shatner's motorcycle for sale

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Shoppers can boldly go where no man has gone before when "Star Trek" creator Gene Roddenberry's collection of personal effects and show memorabilia go up for auction.

Hand-annotated scripts, costumes from the show and Roddenberry's own studio pass are among the items available at the June 27 auction at Planet Hollywood Resort and Casino in Las Vegas, administered by Julien's Auctions.

Proceeds will benefit the Roddenberry Foundation, which makes grants to support children, education and the environment.

The original Capt. Kirk, William Shatner, is also getting in on the auction, selling his custom Harley-Davidson motorcycle, his Golden Globe nomination certificate and the plaque he was presented when he got a star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame in 1983.

Shatner plans to donate a portion of the proceeds to the Hollywood Charity Horse Show, which helps handicapped children.

The 79-year-old actor said he

doesn't mind parting with his mementos and would do just about anything to benefit his chosen charities.

"I had the great fortune of doing the same thing with a kidney stone," Shatner said. "I passed a kidney stone, and a company offered me ... \$75,000 for my kidney stone."

Shatner donated the money to Habitat for Humanity.

"I handed the motorcycle over and it was a part of my heart, but that's only figuratively speaking," he said.

Highlights from the "Star Trek" auction will be exhibited beginning Friday at Ponte 16 in Macau, China, and June 14-24 at Planet Hollywood in Las Vegas. Bids will be accepted in person, online and by phone.

The collection will be "very meaningful" to "Trek" fans, said Shatner, who cites the show's optimistic themes as the reason it has endured for decades.

"It suggests that 300 years from now, mankind is still around," he said. "It's on a note of hope that not only will we be around, but we will flourish and be out there among the stars, colonizing."

Gosselin kids allowed to appear on mom's new show

HARRISBURG, Pennsylvania (AP)—Kate Gosselin's eight children are free to appear on their mom's upcoming reality show.

A spokesman for the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry says producers have obtained child-labor permits for Gosselin's twins and sextuplets to appear with their mother on a series of TLC specials, "Kate Plus 8."

Troy Thompson said Monday that the permits are good for six months, then must be renewed.

Pennsylvania regulators concluded last month that permits should have been obtained for Gosselin's old show, "Jon & Kate Plus 8." The series ended last year when Kate split with her husband, Jon.

No legal action was taken, but the producers agreed to submit paperwork for any future taping.

DMX files NYC lawsuit claiming stolen royalties

NEW YORK (AP)—Rapper DMX says he's been ripped off for years by a company hired to collect his song royalties, but he's been behind bars so much that he only recently realized the problem.

The platinum-selling but troubled hip-hop artist—who's currently in an Arizona jail—said in a lawsuit filed Monday that Rich Kid Entertainment Inc. and related companies paid him nothing while collecting royalties on some of his most popular work. The company also made deals letting record labels reproduce his work without telling



In this undated file photo released by TLC, the Gosselin family poses for a picture at a party to celebrate the sextuplets' fifth birthday, as mom Kate is at left and dad Jon sits on the far right.

him, the lawsuit claims.

No telephone number could be found for Englewood, New Jersey-based Rich Kid. Its president didn't immediately respond to a fax sent to a possible number for him.

DMX, whose real name is Earl Simmons, scored such hits as "Get At Me Dog" and "Party Up" in the 1990s. He also appeared in films including 2000's "Romeo Must Die" and 2003's "Cradle 2 the Grave."

Melania Trump goes discount with new jewelry line



In this April 20, 2010 file photo, Melania Knauss Trump, wife of developer and TV personality Donald Trump arrives at the opening night performance of the Broadway musical "American Idiot" in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—Even the rich and famous enjoy a bargain.

Melania Trump is launching

line of affordable jewelry on QVC. Each item in the Melania Timepieces & Jewelry collection costs less than \$200.

The 40-year-old Slovenian model could have created a fine jewelry line but said in a telephone interview from Palm Beach, Florida, that she wanted something more accessible. And now that her 4-year-old son, Barron, is in school, she has more time to work on sketches and designs.

"I'm completely involved from A to Z, 100 percent. ... I go through the samples and have to approve every piece."

The line is broken up into three categories inspired by places Trump calls home: New York, Palm Beach and Paris. The New York items are created with a businesswoman in mind; Palm Beach is more sporty, and Paris is more flashy and glamorous.

Authorities jail, release Randy Quaid and wife

SANTA BARBARA, California (AP)—Randy and Evi Quaid were briefly jailed Monday after showing up in court two weeks late for a criminal case, authorities said.

The actor and his wife were released after posting \$100,000



Actor Randy Quaid and his wife Evi Quaid are escorted from Santa Barbara County court on Monday, April 26, 2010 in Santa Barbara, Calif.

dead dogs, guns, ammunition and drug paraphernalia at his suburban home.

His other run-ins with the law include pleading guilty in 2008 to attempted cocaine and marijuana possession in Miami, being arrested and released in London in 2006 after police said he refused to put on a seat belt and became abusive on an airplane, and pleading guilty in a 2004 incident in which he posed as an undercover federal agent and crashed his sport-utility vehicle through a security gate at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport.

Authorities jail, release Randy Quaid and wife

bail each and were told to return for a court hearing on Wednesday, the Santa Barbara Sheriff's Department said in a news release.

The couple have repeatedly failed to show up for hearings in a felony case alleging they defrauded an inn out of more than \$10,000. They also have been charged with burglary and conspiracy and have pleaded not guilty.

Photos taken Monday by the Santa Barbara News-Press showed the handcuffed couple smiling as they were escorted by deputies. The Quaids spent less than four hours in custody.

Their attorney, Robert Sanger, has said the money has been repaid and the Quaids hope to resolve the case without a trial. Sanger on Monday declined to comment on the case or say why the couple didn't appear as scheduled earlier this month.

Wife holds her tongue while man gives a lashing with his

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: Would you please print the signs of a mental abuser? My husband is like night and day. There's no in-between. He curses at me, calls me names, tells me I'm stupid and, when he raises his hand palm outward, it's my sign to shut up.

I have to leave notes about where I am, what time I'll be home, and if I'm a minute late, I'm in for it big time. When I try to stand up for myself he tells me I'm a b--- or "too sensitive." He also tells me what to wear.

Why on earth would I still love this guy? Please print the signs because I know a lot of other women in this situation.



Dear Abby

BEATEN DOWN IN FLORIDA

DEAR BEATEN DOWN: By printing your letter I HAVE printed the signs of a mental/emotional abuser. Your husband's behavior is classic, and I don't know why you would still love him. Women stay with men like your husband because they don't think they deserve better, or because they are financially dependent. "Love" has nothing to do with it.

Because verbal and emotional abuse can escalate into physical abuse, I'm printing the toll-free number of the National Domestic Violence Hotline. It's (800) 799-7233.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: How do you deal with a thief in your midst? I have a 21-year-old relative who steals. He has stolen from me, and I suspect from other members of the family as well. Please don't suggest therapy—he's had years of therapy. Recently, he was caught stealing from a purse belonging to his mother's best friend.

The problem is family gatherings. I'm not comfortable telling my guests that they must watch their valuables, but I cannot deal with the possibility of having a guest's possessions or money stolen. Also, I don't particularly relish the idea of having him loose in my house.

He hasn't shown any particular interest in attending these functions and often hasn't attended when invited, but it's hard to know whether excluding him might make him feel left out. My inclination is to tell him the reason I don't want to invite him. Should I?

HIS RELATIVE

DEAR RELATIVE: If he asks why he wasn't invited, by all means tell him. If years of counseling haven't curbed his compulsion to steal, it's possible that one day he will learn in a jail cell what he didn't learn on the couch.

Meanwhile, I see no compelling reason to continue inviting him to family gatherings. Not only will you be doing your guests a favor, you'll be exposing your relative to less temptation.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend has two children from a previous relationship. I love them very much and treat them like my own. We often go out with the children to playgrounds, shopping, etc.

Abby, people often refer to me as the children's mother. They'll say, "Ask your mom ..." things like that. What's the proper response to this? I find it embarrassing because I'm not their mother. But I don't want to make anyone uncomfortable by saying I'm not. What would be the most polite response to someone in that situation?

NOT MOMMY IN MAINE

DEAR NOT MOMMY: The most polite response would be to ignore their mistake.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Jones, Le share PEN/Malamud Award for short story

NEW YORK (AP)—Authors Edward P. Jones and Nam Le have won the PEN/Malamud Award for "Excellence in the Short Story." The prize was announced Monday by the PEN/Faulkner Foundation. It's traditionally shared between an established writer and an emerging one. Jones is best known for his Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, "The Known World." He

has also written two highly regarded collections of short fiction. Nam Le received strong praise for his 2008 debut, "The Boat." He is a native of Vietnam. Each will receive \$2,500. Previous winners include Saul Bellow, John Updike and Sherman Alexie.

Memoir coming from 'The Blind Side' inspiration

NEW YORK (AP)—The American football star whose life inspired the book

and movie "The Blind Side" is now telling his own story. Gotham Books announced Monday that Michael Oher's "I Beat the Odds" will be published in February 2011. Oher rose from poverty in Memphis to fame as an offensive lineman for the NFL's Baltimore Ravens. His story became a best-selling book by Michael Lewis and a popular movie starring Sandra Bullock as Leigh Anne Tuohy, Oher's foster mother. Tuohy and her husband, Sean, also are working on a memoir, due this summer.

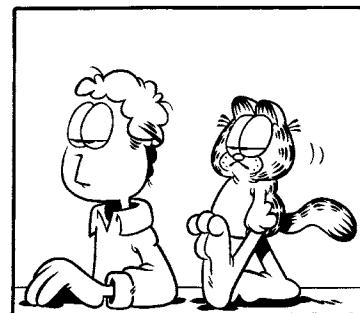
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

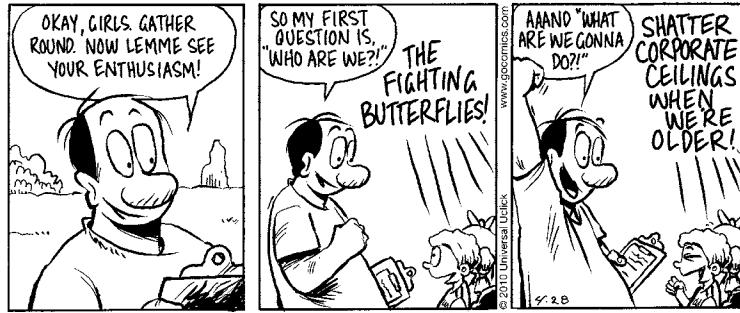
Garfield®



By Jim Davis

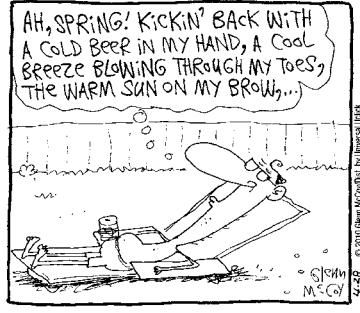


Adam@home

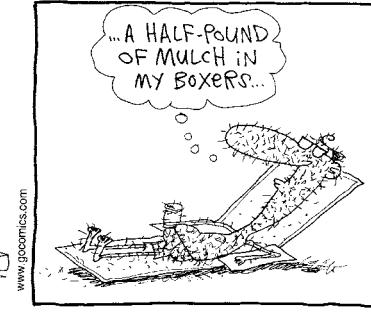


By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

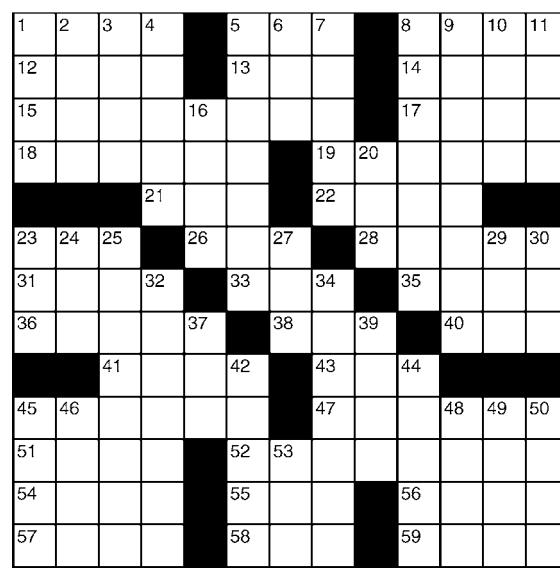


CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	36	Peak	58	In	16	Ham-
1	Gl on the run	periods	38	Catty	59	Nourish
5	Shelter	remark?	40	Workout	20	Peculiar
8	Clarinet-ist	venue	41	Sand	23	Speed-
Artie	43	Fish eggs	45	Bribe	24	ometer
12	Fill with freight	47	Hardly	2	Imperfec-	stat
13	401(k) alternative	49	Plain	3	Stench	MacGraw
14	— support	51	Actress	4	Clark's	Leftovers
15	Lunch container	52	Jessica	5	partner	holder
17	Hindu royal	53	Hodge-podge	6	Generous	27
18	Minute grooves	54	Outer-wear	7	Historic	Silent
19	Ventilating slat	55	"Ulalume"	8	Time	29
21	Round Table address	56	Writer	30	Two	Whatever
22	Whirlpool	57	Earthenware	32	Under par	number
23	Crazed	58	pot	33	At each	30
26	Felon's flight	59	Small barrels	34	Other's —	Sleep
28	Preclude	60	barrels	35	(fighting)	phenom
31	Basis for a whodunit	61	Solution time: 21 mins.	36	32	under par
33	Illumination measure	62	WEAR CAB SKEW	37	33	30
35	Highway division	63	ALIE OVA UNTO	38	34	31
		64	SURVIVOR RENO	39	35	29
		65	PLY DEW BREAD	40	36	28
		66	SLY FOE	41	37	27
		67	ISSUE DOWNING	42	38	26
		68	THOR BOX DRUB	43	39	25
		69	SELFISH LEANS	44	40	24
		70	BRA EAR	45	41	23
		71	CROOK HAM HUB	46	42	22
		72	LAMA SURPRISE	47	43	21
		73	AGER PET EYED	48	44	20
		74	MEND ASH DADS	49	45	19
		75	53 Charged bit	50	46	18

Yesterday's answer 4-28



For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5951 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

STUMPED?

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jessica Alba, 29; Penelope Cruz, 36; Jay Leno, 60; Ann-Margret, 69

Happy Birthday: Concentrate on the present and forget the past and you will be able to look forward to the future. The outcome is in your hands—simply stay calm and do what needs to be done. Taking care of both personal and professional business will lead to your victory. As long as you know what your goals are, you will have no trouble attaining them. Your numbers are 2, 8, 14, 24, 29, 35, 41

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You will expect everyone to show you what they are doing, not tell you about it. Your curiosity, coupled with your high energy and huge imagination, will lead to some new ideas and a successful partnership. **★★★**

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Act with confidence and you will get everything you are asking for. Avoid any inconsistency or annoyance. Taking on a responsibility that belongs to a colleague will show how valuable you are and advancement will follow. **★★★**

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Start thinking about the future and how to ensure better health, wealth and emotional stability. Start a new diet or set up an exercise routine. Make a commitment to improvement and to look at career options that will suit you better. **★★★**

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You have options but if you don't take advantage of them, you will end up spinning your wheels and wondering "what if." Take the plunge and you

will make discoveries about who you are and what you can do. Love is in the stars. **★★★★★**

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't let things get to you today. Chill out and focus on helping others or taking time out for a little pampering. You need to get centered and rethink your strategy so that you can make the right choices. **★★**

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Speak your mind and don't worry about anyone's disagreeing with you. Eventually, everyone will get on the same page. You can settle an overdue debt and make some changes to a partnership and your financial structure, putting your mind at ease. **★★★★**

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Protect your interests. Call in favors and give incentives to those willing to help you out. You will feel at ease once you start moving in a direction more in line with your personality. **★★★**

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): The potential to do something spectacular is present and, with a little ingenuity and a gentle nudge, you will make headway. Keep company with people just as talented, creative and motivated as yourself. **★★★**

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): It's best to be reclusive or at least tight-lipped. Giving out secret information will lead to a problem with someone you didn't mean to upset. A change to your living arrangement will take you by surprise. **★★**

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Renovations or buying or selling property will be successful and will position you well

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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financially. An emotional issue will be resolved quickly if you're willing to meet halfway. **★★★★**

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Rethink what you are trying to accomplish. If your motives are not right, you may have to start over. Someone will call your bluff or accuse you of not being true to your word. Communication will be important but honesty even more critical. **★★**

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): There is money to be made, a deal to negotiate, a settlement to resolve—all of which can bring greater cash flow and opportunities for a new project. It's out with the old and in with the new, coupled with decisions to help you get a handle on improvements you want to make in the future. **★★★★★**

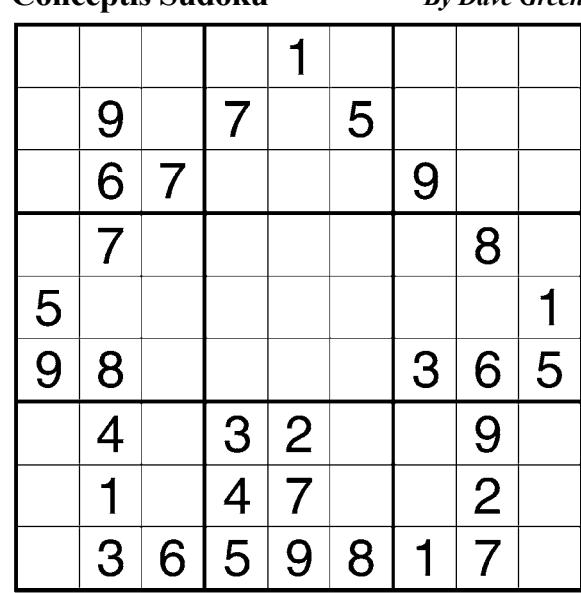
Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, caring and very protective. You are hardworking, a good listener, strong and determined.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

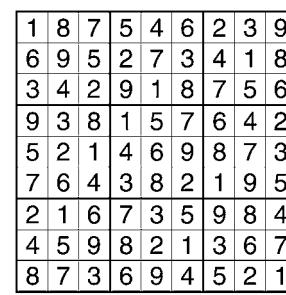
By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★

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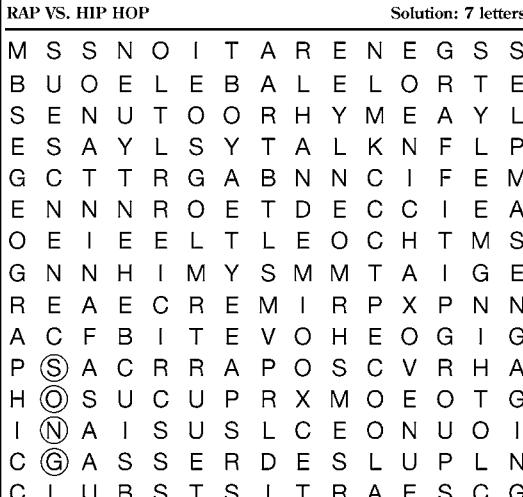
WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle—horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEM LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

RAP VS. HIP HOP

Solution: 7 letters



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Artists, Beat, Beliefs, Branching, Causes, Clothing, Clubs, Commercial, Cool, Dress, Energy, Engaging, Experience, Generation, Geographic, Graffiti, Groups, Hand, History, Label, Lyrics, Metaphors, Mixes, Movement, Pace, Pulse, Rhyme, Role, Root, Samples, Scene, Scratching, Song, Soul, Stance, Style, Support, Talk, Tastes, Tempo, Tunes, Urban, Venue

Yesterday's Answer: Monologue

SALE The topic of "Wonderword for Kids" appeal to younger fans but the puzzle-difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, the book is on sale for just \$4 each (U.S. funds only), payable to Universal Uclick. Include \$3 postage for the first book order, \$1 extra for additional book. Send to Wonderword, 1155 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480.

4/28

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

OVUM MAY AAA

Find today's solution in this section

28 SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2009

There's nothing Super about the Pittsburgh Steelers anymore. 25

Sports

Angamwas rules 4-person

Tribune

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TUESDAY DECEMBER 15, 2009

Obama's re-appointment to NMC board. PAGE

Obama's emergency declaration. PAGE

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Magic beat Bobcats to complete sweep



CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—As the final seconds ticked down, Dwight Howard was back in his familiar spot on the bench and coach Stan Van Gundy was steamed at his superstar for fouling out again.

Then the buzzer sounded and the Orlando Magic became the first team to advance in the NBA playoffs.

Who needs Howard? Not these deep Magic—at least not in the first round.

Vince Carter scored 21 points, Jameer Nelson added 18 and the Magic showcased their depth and pressure shot-making in a 99-90 victory over the Charlotte Bobcats on Monday night to complete a sweep of their first-round series.

Howard was held to six points in his fourth straight game in foul trouble, but the Magic never flinched to accomplish their first four-game sweep in franchise history. Orlando will face the Atlanta-Milwaukee winner in the Eastern Conference semifinals.

“If you would have told me that he would have averaged well under 30 minutes for the series and we would sweep, I would have said you’re crazy,” Van Gundy said. “I think it’s a testament to our other guys.”

Howard did grab 13 rebounds, but was limited to 23 minutes before fouling out for the second straight game. The Magic, though, got key contributions and big shots from others.

Rashard Lewis scored 17 points, Matt Barnes added 14 and Orlando held Stephen Jackson to 2-of-11 shooting to overcome Howard’s 22 fouls in the series.

“He and I got into it a little bit,” Van Gundy said about their sideline exchange in the last minute. “It wasn’t a bad argument. My point was he was in the restricted area and he’s got to jump. He’s so frustrated now that what he was trying to say is it wouldn’t matter. But, well, let’s jump and find out. What he did was give them the call.”

Tyrus Thomas scored a career play-off-high 21 points for the Bobcats, whose focus will now immediately turn to nomadic coach Larry Brown’s future with the team.

Brown, who has had 13 pro and college coaching jobs, continues to be the focus of reports for openings around the NBA, including Philadelphia, where his wife and kids live.

But he repeated that he’ll only coach for Bobcats owner Michael Jordan.

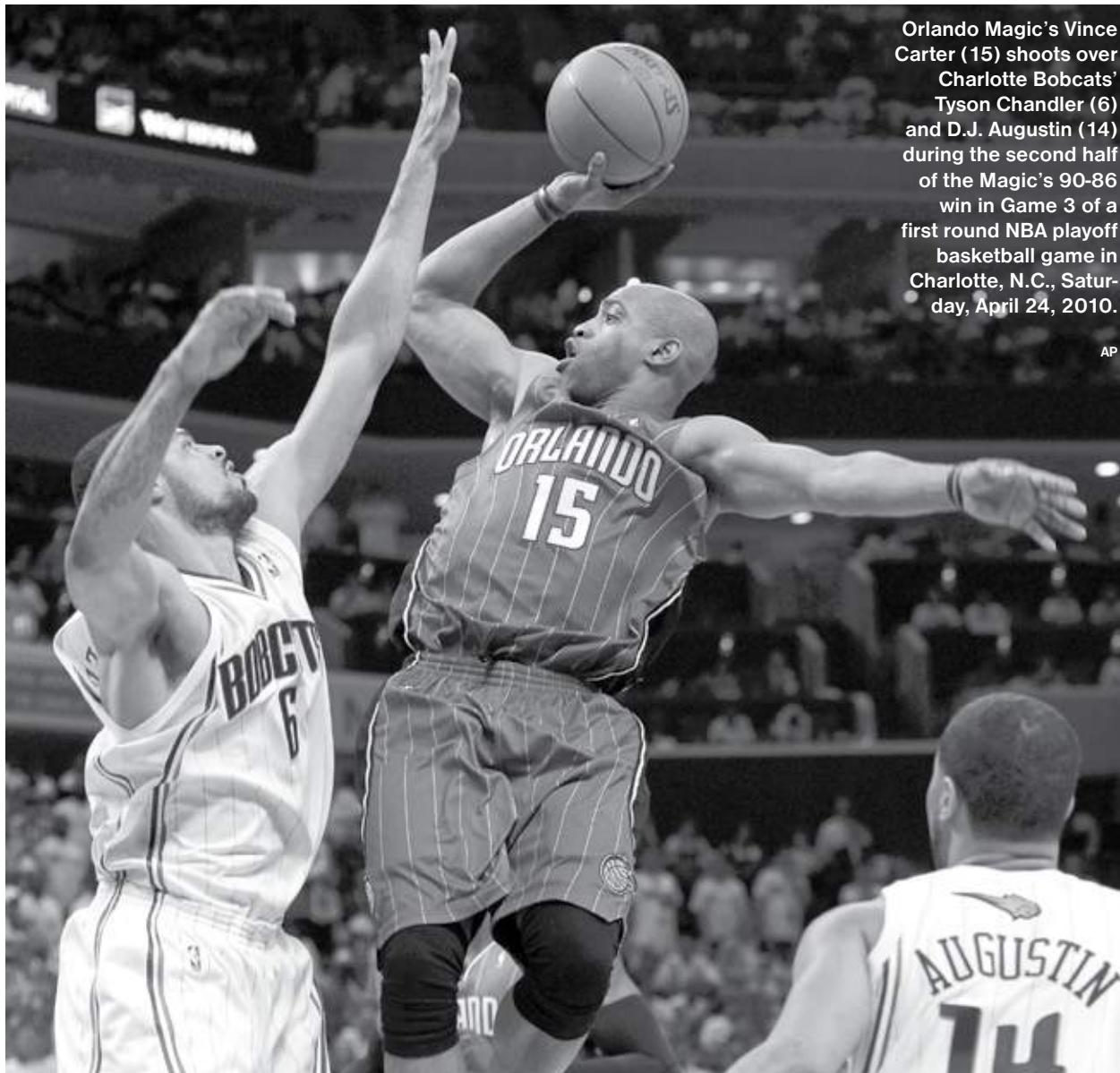
“I’m not coaching anywhere but Charlotte,” Brown said. “Now am I going to go home and talk to my wife and kids? I’ll be 70 years old with two young kids. Am I going to talk to them and find out what I need to do and am I going to talk to Michael? Yeah, absolutely.”

Could that mean he’d retire or consider a front office job with another team?

“That’s hypothetical,” Brown said. “I love coaching more than anything, except my family maybe. ... I’m really, personally, not ready to step down in terms of my desire to keep coaching.”

Brown was down after the 6-year-old Bobcats again wilted in a close game in their first playoff appearance.

After Charlotte cut Orlando’s lead to one on Tyson Chandler’s two free throws, Mickael Pietrus hit consecutive 3-pointers directly across the floor from Jordan’s seat to put the Magic



Orlando Magic's Vince Carter (15) shoots over Charlotte Bobcats' Tyson Chandler (6) and D.J. Augustin (14) during the second half of the Magic's 90-86 win in Game 3 of a first round NBA playoff basketball game in Charlotte, N.C., Saturday, April 24, 2010.

AP

ahead 83-76 with 5:47 left.

Nelson’s 3-pointer less than a minute later—after Gerald Wallace missed two free throws—put it away for the Magic, whose only previous playoff sweep was a 3-0 victory over Detroit in 1996.

“They’re better,” Brown said. “They know how to play playoff basketball. We haven’t figured it out yet.”

Charlotte’s offensive woes were magnified by Howard’s long absences.

The four-time All-Star’s endless foul trouble entering the game made him the focus of ribbing in the morning shoot-around. Teammates told him instead of Superman, his nickname was now “Foul on You.” Howard played along in raising his arm and clenching his fist as if to call a foul.

The joking stopped when Howard was called for two fouls in 16 seconds in the first quarter, the second for tripping. He picked up his third for chal-

lenging D.J. Augustin after he had released a reverse layup that turned into a three-point play.

“It’s very tough out there,” Howard said. “There’s a lot of things I feel don’t go my way or our team’s way.”

With Howard on the bench, the Bobcats built a 38-31 lead on the strength of Thomas, who hit his first eight shots in his best performance since being acquired from Chicago in a trade-deadline deal.

Roethlisberger won't appeal suspension



PITTSBURGH (AP)—A chastened Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger accepted his six-game suspension for violating the NFL’s personal conduct policy Monday and promised to “comply with what is asked of me—and more.”

In his first comments since the NFL handed down the penalty last week, Roethlisberger apologized to his teammates and fans for his behavior last month in a Georgia bar, where a 20-year-old college student accused him of sexual assault.

“The commissioner’s decision to suspend me speaks clearly that more is expected of me. I am accountable for the consequences of my actions. Though I have committed no crime, I regret that I have fallen short of the values instilled in me by my family,” Roethlisberger said in the statement.

Roethlisberger was cleared of charges, but commissioner Roger Goodell cracked down on one of his biggest stars because “you are held to a higher standard as an NFL player, and there is nothing about your conduct in Milledgeville (Ga.) that can remotely be described as

admirable, responsible, or consistent with either the values of the league or the expectations of our fans.”

The two-time Super Bowl winner said that while it will be “devastating” to miss games, “I will not appeal the suspension and will comply with what is asked of me—and more,” he said.

“I am sorry to let down my teammates and the entire Steelers fan base. I am disappointed that I have reached this point and will not put myself in this situation again,” Roethlisberger said. “I appreciate the opportunities that I have been given in my life and will make the necessary improvements.”

Roethlisberger is the first player suspended by Goodell under the conduct policy who hasn’t been arrested or charged with a crime. Goodell said the league’s conduct policy gave him the right to impose discipline regardless of whether Roethlisberger broke the law.

“In your six years in the NFL, you have first thrived and now disappointed a great many people,” Goodell wrote. “I urge you to take full advantage of this opportunity to get your life and career back on track.”

The suspension can be reduced to four

games if Roethlisberger completes an evaluation mandated by the league, any action that is mandated by that evaluation and he remains out of trouble. He can practice during training camp and play in preseason games, but cannot return to game action until at least Oct. 17.

Until now, he has sat out only eight games in six seasons due to injury or to rest up for the playoffs.

Goodell also said he has the right to extend the suspension if he learns of any additional problems.

Roethlisberger was not available Monday for further comment. Because he cannot work out or train with his teammates until the league clears him after behavioral evaluations, he will not take part in the team’s mandatory three-day minicamp this weekend.

Roethlisberger was cleared of charges because a prosecutor said the case was not strong enough to pursue, but the quarterback was rebuked by authorities, Goodell and Steelers president Art Rooney II. Georgia prosecutor Fred Bright was especially harsh, telling the quarterback, “Grow up ... cut it out. You can do better.”

Roethlisberger also is being sued in

Orlando cut the deficit to 45-43 at halftime and took the lead on a run that included Carter’s first made 3-pointer after an 0-for-15 start to the series.

Howard was called for his fourth foul on Raymond Felton’s drive with 6:58 left in the third quarter—and stayed on the bench for nearly 10 minutes.

The Magic hung on, and it could be a while before they play again. The Hawks-Bucks series is tied 2-2.

“We’re going to be well rested,” Howard said before laughing. “I’m going to be well rested.”

Bucks 111, Hawks 104

At Milwaukee, Carlos Delfino scored 22 points with six 3-pointers and Milwaukee pulled off its second straight playoff surprise, beating Atlanta to level the first-round series.

Brandon Jennings scored 23 points and John Salmons added 22 for the Bucks, who survived a fourth-quarter surge led by Atlanta stars Joe Johnson and Josh Smith. Now the Hawks head home for Game 5, desperately needing a win to stave off a surprising challenge by a team missing its best player, injured center Andrew Bogut.

Johnson scored 29 points, reserve Jamal Crawford had 21, and Smith had 20 points and nine rebounds.

Suns 107, Trail Blazers 88

At Phoenix, Channing Frye and Jared Dudley broke out of their series-long shooting slumps with 20 and 19 points, respectively, as the Suns overcame an early 14-point deficit to beat Portland and take a 3-2 lead in its first-round playoff series.

Phoenix can advance to the second round by beating the Blazers in Portland on Thursday night.

Amare Stoudemire scored 19, and Steve Nash had 14 points and 10 assists for Phoenix.

Andre Miller scored 21, while LaMarcus Aldridge and Jerryd Bayless had 17 apiece for the Trail Blazers.

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“I still said no, this is not OK, and he then had sex with me,” she wrote.

Rooney was so angry with Roethlisberger he wanted to suspend him before the league acted, but didn’t do so because the NFL players union could have appealed to a special master. The Steelers have since taken their first tentative steps toward reconciliation: director of football operations Kevin Colbert said the quarterback “deserves the opportunity” to rehabilitate himself.

Varitek's 4 RBIs help Red Sox edge Blue Jays



TORONTO (AP) —

Jason Varitek had four RBIs and Marco Scutaro scored a career-high four runs as Boston held off Toronto for a 13-12 win Monday night.

Varitek went 3 for 5 with two two-run singles and Scutaro went 3 for 5 with a walk against his former team, which set a season high in runs, and with 18 hits.

Jose Bautista hit a three-run homer and Lyle Overbay went 3 for 5 with a solo homer and four RBIs.

Scott Schoeneweis (1-0) got one out for the win and Jonathan Papelbon pitched the ninth for his sixth save, ending the game after 4 hours, 3 minutes.

Shawn Camp (1-1) allowed three runs and four hits in 1 2-3 innings.

Josh Beckett, who had a 6.62 ERA in 12 career starts against Toronto, allowed eight runs and nine hits in three-plus innings, while Toronto's Dana Eveland allowed seven runs and eight hits in three-plus innings.

Tigers 8, Rangers 6

At Arlington, Miguel Cabrera and Brandon Inge hit back-to-back homers in the ninth for Detroit, which blew a five-run lead.

Cabrera's tiebreaking homer off Neftali Feliz (1-1) landed in the Texas bullpen in right-center. Inge followed with his second homer of the game.

Inge's two-run shot in the fifth, his first of the season, put Detroit up 6-1.

Phil Coke (3-0), the third Tigers pitcher, worked 1 2-3 shutout innings before Jose Valverde pitched a perfect ninth for his sixth save in seven chances.

Coke took over with one out in the seventh after the Rangers had loaded the bases off Joel Zumaya. The left-hander struck out Josh Hamilton on three pitches before giving up a two-run single to Vladimir Guerrero that tied it at 6.

Detroit led 4-0 after the first four batters of the game reached and scored off Matt Harrison.

Royals 3, Mariners 1

At Kansas City, Kyle Davies allowed only one infield single in six dominant innings as Kansas City handed Felix Hernandez his first loss in 10 decisions.

Billy Butler homered leading off the seventh against Hernandez (2-1), who had won nine consecutive decisions since losing to Cleveland last Aug. 23. In seven innings, he gave up three runs—two earned—with three walks and seven strikeouts.

Davies (2-1) walked three and struck out five before turning a 2-0 lead over to the bullpen starting the seventh.

Kansas City's much-maligned bullpen preserved the shutout until former Royal Mike Sweeney's pinch-hit RBI single off Kyle Farnsworth with two outs in the ninth. Bruce Chen came in and got his first career save when Ichiro Suzuki flied out.

Angels 5, Indians 2

At Anaheim, Erick Aybar hit his first lead-off homer and Bobby Abreu added a two-run shot, leading Jered Weaver and the Los Angeles Angels to victory over Cleveland.

Weaver (3-0) allowed a run and seven hits in six innings, striking out seven and walking one. It's the first time the right-hander has won his first three decisions since 2006, when he joined Livan Hernandez and Hall of Famer



Boston Red Sox catcher Jason Varitek is congratulated by teammates after defeating the Toronto Blue Jays 13-12 in a baseball game in Toronto on Monday April 26, 2009.

Whitey Ford as the only pitchers to go 9-0 in their first 12 big league starts.

Angels designated hitter Hideki Matsui singled in the fifth for his 1,000th hit in the majors, lining a 2-2 pitch to right field. His first career hit was an RBI single against Roy Halladay in his first big league at-bat on March 31, 2003, with the New York Yankees at Toronto.

Cardinals 4, Braves 3

At St. Louis, Yadier Molina's RBI double snapped an eighth-inning deadlock and Colby Rasmus homered in St. Louis' victory over Atlanta, the Braves' sixth straight loss.

Troy Glaus had two hits and an RBI for the Braves, who have been outscored 23-9 during their worst slump since dropping six straight to end 2009.

Albert Pujols had three hits and an RBI for the Cardinals, who have won

the opener in all but one of seven series. Pujols had a run-scoring groundout in the sixth and doubled off Takashi Saito (0-1) to open the eighth.

Dennys Reyes (2-0) worked around two two-out walks in the eighth. Ryan Franklin finished for his seventh save in seven chances.

Rasmus had two hits and an intentional walk after going 1 for 18 at home to open the season. He is 12 for 26 during a seven-game hitting streak after hitting his sixth homer to open the seventh.

Cubs 4, Nationals 3, 10 innings

At Chicago, Aramis Ramirez walked with the bases loaded in the 10th inning to give Chicago its fourth straight win.

Ryan Theriot, coming off a five-hit game against Milwaukee on Sunday, started the winning rally with a lead-off single against Brian Bruney (1-1).

Derrek Lee walked with one out before Marlon Byrd blooped a single for his third hit. That loaded the bases for Ramirez, who walked on four pitches and became the third player—and second Cub—to walk with the bases loaded in the game.

Carlos Marmol (1-0) pitched around a two-out double by Adam Dunn in the top of the 10th and recorded his first win since June 14.

Ace-turned-reliever Carlos Zambrano pitched 1 2-3 scoreless innings in his second appearance out of the bullpen and first at Wrigley Field since his removal from the rotation last week.

Marlins 10, Padres 1

At Miami, Josh Johnson pitched a three-hitter, had a career-high 12 strikeouts and drove in three runs for Florida.

Dan Uggla homered and drove in three runs for the Marlins. Hanley

Howard agrees to \$125 million extension with Phils

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Ryan Howard took a good-natured jab at those fickle fans in baseball-crazy Philadelphia.

“Hopefully there’s no riots taking place back in Philly,” he joked of his new megadeal.

Get used to it, City of Brotherly Love. This guy’s going to be around for a while.

The slugging first baseman agreed to a \$125 million, five-year contract extension Monday that could keep him with the Phillies until 2017.

Howard preferred securing his future in Philadelphia to testing free agency in two years—and boy, is he getting his payday. He also felt loyal to the franchise that gave him his chance to reach the big leagues, saying, “That wasn’t a very hard decision.”

“I tell you what, it’s a great feeling to have that security and know where you’re going to be,” Howard said. “I feel what I’ve been doing over the last couple of years, I feel pretty confident that down the road, I’ll be right where I want to be and

still doing the same things.”

Howard’s teammates wasted no time hitting him up for favors, either.

“Where we going to eat, Ryan?” Ben Francisco asked.

Howard just chuckled.

“He’s going to take all your money,” quipped Shane Victorino.

Even general manager Ruben Amaro Jr. got into the fun.

“As part of this deal, he has agreed to buy a second home for me,” Amaro joked during a news conference at AT&T Park, where the Phillies opened a three-game series with the Giants.

But in all seriousness, Amaro pulled off a deal that keeps the centerpiece of the Phillies’ offense in place for the long haul.

“We just felt it was good timing for us,” Amaro said. “We felt No. 1, he’s one of the elite offensive players in the game. We could have waited another year and a half or so and dealt with it later on, but the fact of the matter is we decided he is that important to our organization and to our club and to our future.”

The 30-year-old Howard will make

\$20 million each in 2012 and 2013 and \$25 million annually from 2014-16.

The Phillies have a \$23 million club option for 2017 with a \$10 million buyout. Howard also receives a limited no-trade provision: He can select nine teams each year he can be traded to with his consent.

“This is a very good contract for him,” Howard’s agent Casey Close said. “The reason he felt the time was right was he loves his teammates, he loves the city. He wanted to be a part of something special for a long time to come.”

Howard flied to deep center in the first inning Monday, with Andres Torres going to the wall to make the tough catch. Howard, a two-time All-Star, led the Phillies to two straight trips to the World Series, winning a championship in 2008.

The \$25 million guaranteed average salary in the extension will be baseball’s second-highest behind Alex Rodriguez’s \$27.5 million average under a 10-year contract with the Yankees running through 2017.

Ramirez also homered.

Johnson (2-1) walked one and threw 117 pitches in his fourth career complete game, his first since June 14, 2009.

The three-hitter was a career best.

Johnson went 3 for 4. He singled home a run in the second and added a two-run single in the third.

San Diego’s run came on a sacrifice fly by pinch-hitter Matt Stairs in the eighth. The Padres lost their second game in a row after winning eight straight.

Diamondbacks 5, Rockies 3

At Denver, Dan Haren struck out a season-high 10 and Adam LaRoche homered for Arizona.

Carlos Gonzalez homered and drove in both runs for Colorado, which nearly rallied in the ninth off closer Chad Qualls. With two outs Ian Stewart drove in Todd Helton from second, but Qualls struck out pinch-hitter Jason Giambi with two on for his fifth save in seven chances.

Rockies starter Jason Hammel (0-2) left the game after three innings with a strained right groin.

Brewers 17, Pirates 3

At Milwaukee, Yovani Gallardo pitched six strong innings and drove in three runs and Gregg Zaun matched career highs with four hits and five RBIs as Milwaukee extended its mastery of Pittsburgh.

Casey McGehee added a grand slam in a nine-run eighth inning that also included a two-run homer by Alcides Escobar and a two-run double by Zaun.

The Brewers have outscored the Pirates 53-4 in their last four meetings, including a three-game sweep in Pittsburgh last week when Milwaukee outscored the Pirates 36-1—including a 20-0 rout.

It was the seventh straight defeat for the Pirates who have lost to the Brewers 22 straight times at Miller Park and are 12-37 against Milwaukee overall since 2007.

The Brewers’ home winning streak against Pittsburgh is the longest by one team over another since Cleveland beat the St. Louis Browns/Baltimore Orioles 27 consecutive times from 1952-54.

Gallardo (2-2) gave up two runs, none earned, and five hits in six innings. Zach Duke (2-2) took the loss, allowing eight earned runs and nine hits in four innings.

Giants 5, Phillies 1

At San Francisco, Eli Whiteside homered and doubled in a run and Jonathan Sanchez struck out six as the Giants handed Roy Halladay his first loss since joining the Phillies in a four-team trade.

Ryan Howard went 0 for 3 with a strikeout and walk hours after he agreed to a \$125 million, five-year contract extension.

Mark DeRosa hit a two-run single in the first for San Francisco and Aubrey Huff had an RBI single in the sixth. Whiteside doubled in the second to make it 3-0, then hit a solo homer in the seventh. After Whiteside’s double, Halladay (4-1) retired the next 10 hitters in order.

Halladay had a six-start winning streak ended, the second-longest of his career. The right-hander came in with an 0.82 ERA—third-best in the NL—but it rose to 1.80.

Sanchez (2-1) labored through five innings allowing three hits and one run and walked five.

Cuento cashes in on USSP 8-ball



Chester Cuento nabbed the ninth slot in USS Peleliu Club's Mother's Day 8-Ball Tournament by winning Thursday's qualifying tournament.

His win was good for a trophy from Pacific Amusement and a spot in the May 9 championship, as well as a shot at winning a USSP T-shirt in a best-of-five match before Sunday's qualifier.

Free qualifying tournaments are held every Thursday and Sunday, with the 13 winners and three runners-up with the most points earning slots in the Mother's Day final.

There is no entry fee. First place in the final is good for \$100, with \$50 for second.

FIESTA

From Page 28

er, the referee let the play go, as Estolas had yet to establish position and was still moving when Esdrelon nudged him a bit and pulled up for a banked shot and made the basket.

With Fiesta Resort up, 91-90, 19 ticks left on the clock, Mobil sued for time. When play resumed, Estolas hung on to the ball too long beyond the arc before attacking the basket and kicking it to Jun Galzote, who

was waiting for the drop pass from the right baseline. Galzote received the pass and went up for a shot, but de la Torre swatted the ball away. There was then a scramble for the loose ball with Esdrelon winning out and drawing a foul from Manalo.

With one second left, Esdrelon needed to make only his first free throw and miss the second one to ensure a Fiesta Resort win. However, he muffed the first and nailed the second, giving Mobil a slim chance to tie or win the match with a triple.

The game that should've



been finished after a second took more than 10 minutes to end, as it started to rain after Esdrelon's second free throw. When rain stopped and the match resumed, Estolas did the inbound and looked for a teammate for a catch-and-shoot play. Unfortunately, Ruluked ran out of time and space to deliver the shot, as when he slid down to the right wing from the top key, Esdrelon hounded him, preventing the Mobil forward to catch Estolas' lob.

Esdrelon paced Fiesta with 34 points, improving the team's record to 9-4. Rommel Usi added

18, spearheading Fiesta Resort's rally in the third quarter. His last-second pass to Edel Carino gave Fiesta a 67-63 cushion at the end of the third period, as the latter hit a buzzer-beating undergoal shot. Carino chipped in 14, hitting 4-for-4 from the foul line in the crucial fourth period.

Estolas led Mobil's losing cause, scoring 22 points. Bryan Ajoste contributed 17, but had limited touches in the closing minutes of the fourth frame. Manalo added 17 points, too, while Ruluked had 13, making 11 of them in the fourth.

Meanwhile, the first game of the night between Shirley's and Hard Rock Café was forfeited in favor of the hosts due to a no-show from the latter.

18, Carino 14, Valdez 9, Salazar 8, Ong 7, de la Torre 2.

For more information, contact USSP owners Rose or Ken Phillips at 233-1984. (USSP)

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	Avg
James, CLE	4	50	28	140	35.0
Anthony, DEN	4	51	30	138	34.5
Wade, MIA	4	52	18	135	33.8
Nowitzki, DAL	4	38	34	112	28.0
Williams, UTA	4	29	41	107	26.8
Durant, OKC	4	33	35	107	26.8
Rose, CHI	4	45	12	103	25.8
Johnson, ATL	4	42	15	103	25.8
Bryant, LAL	4	33	21	96	24.0
Nelson, ORL	4	30	23	95	23.8
Richardson, PHX	5	39	18	113	22.6
Boozer, UTA	4	38	12	88	22.0
Westbrook, OKC	4	32	21	87	21.8
Ginobili, SAN	4	26	21	81	20.3
Duncan, SAN	4	35	11	81	20.3
Salmons, MIL	4	31	18	81	20.3
Stoudemire, PHX	5	37	27	101	20.2
Jennings, MIL	4	31	9	79	19.8
Aldridge, POR	5	35	27	98	19.6
Pierce, BOS	4	24	20	77	19.3

Fiesta 92 – Esdrelon 34, Usi

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA LEADERS

Central Division					
Minnesota	13	6	.684	—	
Detroit	11	9	.550	2 1/2	
Chicago	8	11	.421	5	
Cleveland	8	11	.421	5	
Kansas City	8	11	.421	5	

West Division					
Oakland	12	8	.600	—	
Los Angeles	11	10	.524	1 1/2	
Seattle	9	11	.450	3	
Texas	8	11	.421	3 1/2	

NATIONAL LEAGUE					
East Division					
W	L	Pct	GB		
Philadelphia	11	8	.579	—	
Florida	11	9	.550	1 1/2	
New York	10	9	.526	1	
Washington	10	10	.500	1 1/2	
Atlanta	8	11	.421	3	

Central Division					
St. Louis	12	7	.632	—	
Chicago	10	10	.500	2 1/2	
Milwaukee	9	10	.474	3	
Houston	8	10	.444	3 1/2	
Cincinnati	8	11	.421	4	
Pittsburgh	7	12	.368	5	

West Division					
San Diego	11	8	.579	—	
San Francisco	11	8	.579	—	
Colorado	10	10	.500	1 1/2	
Arizona	9	10	.474	2	
Los Angeles	8	10	.444	2 1/2	

Yesterday's Games					
Florida 10, San Diego 1					
L.A. Dodgers at New York, ppd., rain					
Chicago Cubs 4, Washington 3, 10 innings					
Milwaukee 17, Pittsburgh 3					
St. Louis 4, Atlanta 3					
Arizona 5, Colorado 3					
San Francisco 5, Philadelphia 1					
Boston 13, Toronto 12					
Detroit 8, Texas 6					
Kansas City 3, Seattle 1					
L.A. Angels 5, Cleveland 2					

LOCAL SCORES					
SHIRLEY'S STANDINGS					
Aqua Resort	10	3			
World Resort	10	3			
Mobil	10	4			
MBI	9	2			
TBK	9	4			
Fiesta Resort	9	4			
Bank of Guam	6	5			
Pacific Islands Club	6	6			
Shirley's	6	7			
McGraw-Hill	5	6			
AON/NJ Plus	4	6			
Pepsi	3	6			
Docomo/SGH	2	10			
Hard Rock	1	12			
Cell Pro	0	12			

AMERICAN LEAGUE					
East Division					
W	L	Pct	GB		
Tampa Bay	14	5	.737	—	
New York	12	6	.667	1 1/2	
Toronto	10	10	.500	4 1/2	
Boston	9	11	.450	5 1/2	

2010 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships

Photos by ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Adele Hudkins returns to Carol Lee and Isabel Heras during their girls U12 doubles.



Quintin Ramsey serves during his and Chris Cajigan's game against Colin Ramsey and Carl Dela Cruz.



Emily Jones serves during her girls U14 match against Lucy Park. Jones won, 6-1, 1-6, 6-1.



Jake Lee serves against Chris Cajigan during their boys U14 finals. Lee won, 6-3, 6-4.



Clay McCullough-Stearns chases the ball to the sideline during his and Sung Hoon Ham's game against Christian Miller and Alex Park. Park and Miller won, 6-3, 6-4.



Chris Cajigan stretches to return to Jake Lee during their boys U14 finals game.



Colin Ramsey goes for a backhand return during his and Carl Dela Cruz title game in the boys U12 doubles against Quintin Ramsey and Chris Cajigan. Quintin and Cajigan won, 7-5, 2-6, 6-3.



Dylan Ackerman makes a return during and Aaron Lee's semis match against Clayton Izuka and Alex Park in the boys U12 doubles division of the 2010 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships at the American Memorial Park tennis court. Ackerman and Lee won, 6-4, 4-6, 6-0.



Luther Lizama goes for a volley while teammate Michael Jones looks on during their game against Carl Dela Cruz and Colin Ramsey in the boys U12 doubles division. Cruz and Ramsey won, 6-0, 6-2.



Carol Lee, right, and Isabel Heras take a short break during their girls U12 doubles game against Emily Jones and Adele Hudkins.



Magic beat Bobcats to complete sweep
PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune Sports



28 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 2010

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Brewers ruin Rangers perfect season

By WALTER J. SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Jason Hayes was steady on the mound and the rest of his teammates hunkered down on defense as Miller Brewers upset pennant champion and previously undefeated Rangers, 7-4, Monday night in the start of the 2010 Saipan Major League playoffs at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Ballfield.

The Brew Crew allowed four runs off nine base runners and Hayes registered three strikeouts, four walks, and six hits and his pitching awarded him with a lot of grounders and fly outs. He even caught a few Rangers off base as the Brewers played with reckless abandon as a unit to steal Game 1 of the best-of-three seminal series.

MLB
In the first, the visiting Brewers hit three fly outs and stranded two runners, allowing the Rangers to strike first.

Tyrone Omar's leadoff walk and was then moved to second off a single by Juan Iguel.

After a double steal by the Rangers, Iguel advanced to third as Omar came in to score off an infield error.

In the second, Jess Mesa led off for the Brewers with a big triple.

Dave Alepuyo hit him in with one out before the Rangers turned a double play to spoil the second for the

See BREWERS on Page 26



The Brewers' Byron Kaipat, seen here going at bat in a file photo, played in Game 1 of their semis series against pennant champion St. Michael Rangers in the SML and brought in Toi Celis via a fielder's choice in the third inning. **SAIPAN TRIBUNE**

Fiesta Resort halts Mobil's winning run

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Shirley's COFFEE SHOP
Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan pulled off a momentum-breaking 92-90 win over Mobil Oil during the lone game in the 2nd Annual Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League on Monday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

Mobil Oil was hoping to extend its winning run to nine, but it was Fiesta Resort which ended up in Cloud 9 after a thrilling two-point victory over the Marvin Deocares-coached squad. Five straight points from Elmer Esdrelon and a block from Ferdie de la Torre lifted Fiesta Resort to its fourth win in a row.

Fiesta Resort eked out the vic-



Fiesta's Ferdie de la Torre (17) makes the game-saving block against Mobil's Jun Galzote during their game in the Shirley's caging on Monday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

tory despite trailing by as much as 11 points in the third period, 49-60, and engaging Mobil in a see-saw battle in the remaining half of the fourth canto.

Esdrelon's streak of points started with a layup that gave Fiesta an 89-88 lead, 47 ticks to go in the fourth quarter.

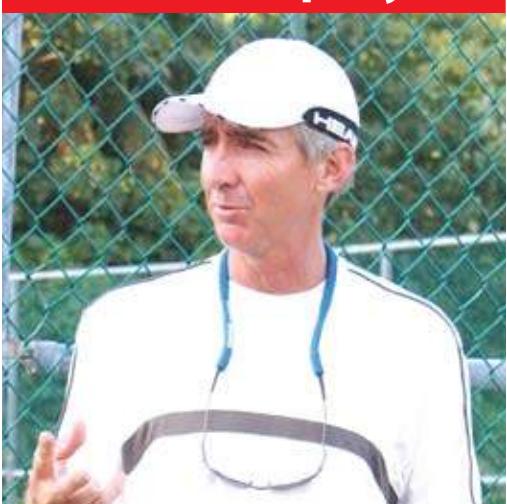
In the ensuing play, Mobil went to its bread and butter play—a pick and roll—with Jun Estolas drawing Fiesta Resort's defense first before dropping the ball to a sliding Gyles Ruluked. However, de la Torre fouled Ruluked even before the latter went up for a shot.

With 36 seconds left, Mobil kept the ball and worked on its old play with Estolas driving and then passing the ball to Manolo Manalo for a bucket and a 90-89 lead.

When possession returned to Fiesta Resort, Esdrelon took matters into his own hands, again attacking Estolas' defense in the paint. Estolas tried to draw a charge on Esdrelon and the former went down. Howev-

See FIESTA on Page 26

Junior ITF events await U18 players



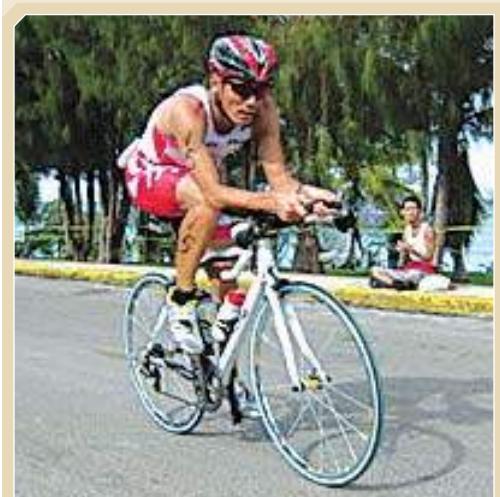
ROSELYN B. MONROYO
CNMI coach Jeff Race explains the changes in the age group competition in the North qualifying tournament and the Pacific Oceania Junior Championships this year during the awards ceremony for the CNMI Junior Tennis Championships on Sunday at the AMP tennis court.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

It's not yet the end of the road for CNMI 18-and-under tennis players, as a high-level tournament awaits them next year.

The Oceania Tennis Federation is proposing an ITF tournament for 18-and-under players next year in place of a stint in the annual Pacific Oceania Junior Champi-

See JUNIOR on Page 26



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Takeshi Aoyama of Japan zips by Taga Beach on his way to winning the 2009 Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon. This year's triathlon will be held on June 12.

Tinian Triathlon and Reef Swim set for June 12

By WALTER J. SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Tinian will again host dozens of multi-sport athletes and swimmers on June 12 when the island hold the 11th Annual Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon and Reef Swim.

The annual triathlon course consists of a 1.5-kilometer swim, 40-km bike ride, and 10-km

See TINIAN on Page 26